



CREDO

Bishop of Oxford opens a new series

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TO RUSSIA

Anne McElvoy sets off with trepidation

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Pink Floyd shine on remastered

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WEEKEND MONEY

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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 1992

50p

Duke of York is part of human chain to save royal art treasures



Smoke billows above the historic battlements of Windsor Castle as firemen struggle to contain flames in the state apartments yesterday. The structure was weakened and part of the outside wall collapsed

Job action demanded by Labour

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS were under renewed pressure last night to intensify their efforts to promote economic recovery after Labour predicted that failing swift action 250,000 more jobs would be lost this winter. Amid the political fallout from Thursday's announcement of nearly 10,000 redundancies on the railways and in the finance and construction industries, Opposition members accused John Major of failing to appreciate the scale of the threat to employment.

John Smith, the Labour leader, said trade wars and the recession threatened a downward spiral into a global slump. It was astonishing that the prime minister had not used Britain's European Community presidency to put recovery, growth and jobs at the top of its European agenda.

He was speaking after Opposition calls in the Commons for a ministerial statement on British Rail's decision to axe 5,000 jobs.

More redundant, page 2
Leading article, page 15
New jobs, page 19

Gatt farm deal lifts threat of trade war

By GEORGE BROCK
AND MARTIN FLITCHER

EUROPE and America last night broke their two-year deadlock over farm subsidies with a deal that lifts the threat of a transatlantic trade war and brings hope of a massive boost to world economies.

The two sides will now present their farm support deal to the 108 states of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva and attempt to wrap up a treaty to liberalise world trade before the spring.

Negotiators, who finalised the accord by telephone after two days of talks in Washington, said they had resolved their differences on the main issues and had "full expectation" that the breakthrough would provide the impetus necessary to complete the Uruguay Round. "A trade war has been averted," Frans Andriessen, the EC's external affairs commissioner said.

John Major described the accord as "the single most important trade deal the world has ever seen". It was "quite literally the best possible news we could have had for industry, commerce, the consumer, free trade and for the prospect

of secure and worthwhile jobs in the future." President Bush, who telephoned Mr Major to thank him for his "key role" he had played as EC president in keeping the talks going when they seemed on the brink of collapse, said the agreement to begin reducing farm subsidies was "fundamental to spurring economic growth and spurring jobs at home and all around the world. We have avoided a possible trade war and that is very, very important."

America had threatened to impose a 200 per cent import tax on \$300 million of European products, mostly French wine, if the dispute were not settled by December 5. Carla Hills, the US trade representative, observed last night that the threat had had "a therapeutic effect" and said she now hoped that GATT negotiators would return to Geneva early next week and aggressively

pursue a deal between now and Christmas. GATT officials in Geneva also expressed the hope that the Uruguay Round of talks could be relaunched and said they would be calling a meeting of the GATT trade

negotiations committee, although they did not say when.

While Mr Bush and John Major hailed the agreement, the French agriculture minister, Jean-Pierre Soisson, sounded a note of discord when he said that conditions defined by the French government had not been fulfilled. "At first I cannot accept it," he said, adding that France would ask the European Commission to report on whether the deal was compatible with last May's reform of the common agricultural policy.

The Commission, which negotiates international trade agreements on behalf of the 12 EC governments, approved the package at a special meeting last night and Jacques Delors, who chaired the meeting, raised no objection. Ray MacSharry, the EC's negotiator, said that the deal agreed imposed no cuts on Europe's farmers beyond those already agreed and consolidated the CAP reform.

In fact, the deal came within reach after the Americans made surprisingly large concessions to settle the dispute over Europe's subsidised ex-

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Veto threat, page 10

Queen joins rescue as fire rages at Windsor Castle

By ALAN HAMILTON

MORE than 200 firefighters and 35 appliances were last night still battling to contain a blaze which severely damaged the structure and interiors of the state apartments at Windsor Castle and at one stage threatened one of the world's greatest art collections.

The Queen joined castle staff, workmen and an army detachment in stripping the world's oldest inhabited castle of its priceless collection of art treasures as flames engulfed the north-east corner of the Upper Quadrangle, bringing down most of the roof, part of an outside wall and seriously weakening the structure.

Seven hours after the fire started it had flared up again and, according to one eye witness, was spreading towards the north-east end of the castle complex. The fire brigade said it was not spreading and was being contained by fire fighters at the scene.

As dusk fell last night smoke and flames continued to leap into the night sky, lighting up the mock-Gothic battlements.

By early evening, firefighters had been satisfied that the blaze had been contained and that there was little danger of it spreading to the private apartments or other parts of the castle. But the damage was considerably greater than that at Hampton Court in the fire six years ago.

Christopher Lloyd, surveyor

of the Queen's pictures, was taken to hospital with a suspected heart attack, after collapsing when he rushed to Windsor from his office in Buckingham Palace.

The restoration bill, likely to run into millions of pounds, will probably be met by the national heritage department

as royal palaces are not insured because the premiums would be too high.

First sightings of the fire came shortly after 11.30am yesterday when a burning curtain was sighted in the

Continued on page 3, col 8

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هكزامت الاصل



Press protest: journalists demonstrating at the Daily Mirror offices in London yesterday against the "dismissal" of casual workers

Job creation projects may be started

By ROBERT MORGAN
PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government is considering setting up a trial workforce scheme under which the jobless are paid to do state-sponsored work if they give up their unemployment pay.

Making the announcement in the Commons yesterday, Patrick McLoughlin, the employment minister, said the government was sceptical about the American-style measure and attached greater importance to training. But it "was considering the possibility" of a pilot scheme.

The statement followed a demand by Ralph Howell (C, Norfolk North), who has been pushing plans for a scheme for more than 20 years.

BR predicts more lay-offs as unions prepare to strike

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail forecast a further round of redundancies yesterday, as rail union leaders began preparations for a series of 24-hour strikes in protest at the 5,000 job losses announced on Thursday. BR said that more redundancies over the next two years would be unavoidable unless demand for rail services increased.

Derrick Fulford, general secretary of Aslef, the train drivers' union, forecast "a series of 24-hour strikes by the public sector" and warned that job losses would be followed by cuts in services, line closures and higher fares. John Nelson, managing director of Network SouthEast, said that strike action would be an "ill-considered prospect and a potentially extremely damaging response, and one which I do not believe would be fitting in the circumstances".

The effects of BR's financial difficulties are becoming increasingly serious. Mr Nelson conceded that Network SouthEast faced "an extremely difficult funding position".

Had it not been for the recession and the collapse in receipts from passenger fares, down by 10 per cent over the past four years, BR would have been in the middle of a modernisation drive which would have transformed the image and performance of the

railways. Just as it started to gear up for its biggest investment programme in three decades, the recession struck. When the investment programme was drawn up, BR faced the dual task of catering for a big increase in demand for commuter services and the need to replace antiquated rolling stock and track equipment that had accumulated from two decades of neglect. Although recession has meant that BR no longer faces the pressing need to expand capacity, it has also meant that rail managers are saddled with increasing amounts of obsolete equipment and little or no prospect of finding the money to replace it. Those lines fortunate

enough to be first on the list of modernisation schemes, such as the east coast mainline, the Chiltern line and the Kent Link routes, have been transformed. Those further down the list, including the west coast mainline, the Kent coast routes and the London, Tilbury and Southend line, slipped off the agenda. Network SouthEast must replace 60 per cent of its signalling systems and relay an estimated 2,500 miles of track over the next 15 years. Rail engineers fear that these targets can no longer be met. Large areas of the South East could face speed restrictions and some line closures.

Leading article, page 15

Less rail cash means less safety — on roads

By RICHARD HOPE

ZERO investment is the watchword at British Rail headquarters as 5,000 staff are shed at the end of a disastrous year. London Transport has also been hit by plunging revenues and a Tube strike looms over 5,000 more job losses.

Ironically, rail investment hit record levels this year, with BR and LT each spending around £1 billion. But both programmes are heading for oblivion, with few if any new contracts in prospect.

Privatisation plans for BR assume that new trains will be bought by the private sector. But there is minimal interest in such long-term commitments with no guaranteed customer. The Underground, struggling to over-

come decades of neglect and under-spending, saw its investment plans slashed by a third in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

LT's chairman, Wilfred Newton, says that the cuts "will mean worsening service quality to maintain safety". There is more irony here, for it was the outcry over rail safety after the King's Cross and Clapham tragedies that led to hugely increased spending on safety. BR puts the figure at £600 million over three years; LT has spent no less.

It did not stop there. Before Clapham, BR staff had been dropping steadily at around 3 per cent a year as efficiency improved. In 1990-2, staff increased by 4,000 while traffic fell away because of tighter safety rules. The same happened on

the Tube. Operating costs soared under the twin pressures.

Safety spending has not caused the twin crises which have hit BR and LT. But it has seriously undermined their finances and weakened their ability to ride out the recession. It has also exposed as naive the government's belief that London, alone among the world's great cities, could run commuter trains at a profit.

It is freight, however, that is threatened with something close to collapse. The order had gone out that all "unprofitable" freight must be eliminated by March 31 so that various businesses such as Trainload Coal could be put up for sale.

Yet the privatisation white paper published in July said that Railtrack, which will own the track, "will be

expected to make a return on its assets and to charge [train] operators for the use of its track". This would be certain death for most freight trains.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has only weeks to decide whether the much touted environmental benefits of rail justify subsidy in the form of minimal charges for track use, plus measures to help the switch from lorries to trains.

And it is on the roads that the real threat to safety lies. The figures will never be separated from other road casualties, but hundreds will die and tens of thousands will be maimed for life if political dogma triumphs over what, to most people, looks like common sense.

Richard Hope is Consultant Editor of Railway Gazette

Lifetime in banking proves worthless

Lin Jenkins meets one of the new breed of financial executives swelling the dole queues

A Ian Hampson can smile at the irony of his situation. After a career spent advising others on how to manage their money, he now has all day to organise his own reduced funds. As one of about 200 people who lost their jobs at the Royal Bank of Scotland before Thursday's announcement of 3,500 more job cuts over five years, Mr Hampson has had time to reflect on the abrupt end of a career he believed was for life.

When he entered banking 34 years ago he assumed he would remain until retirement. With two children at university and another yet to go, he did not expect it to end at the age of 51. "They call it early retirement, but I regard myself as unemployed. I still want to work until I am 60, but there have been 50,000 jobs lost in the finance industry in the last two years and they are all after the job I am after," he said from his home in Orpington, Kent.

Mr Hampson, like many of the new breed of white-collar unemployed, was surprised when the recession hit the banking profession. When he started in a Manchester branch of a small bank which was to become the Royal Bank of Scotland, there was no prospect of losing your post, unless you were caught with your fingers in the till. "You always thought it was a secure job and a source of new ones. Banks always took school leavers. Now where will they go?"

Unemployment happened to some clients, but not to himself or his friends. "I can remember the last of the cotton mills going and people being out of work. It was always blue-collar workers who lost their jobs. Indeed there was an awareness among them that they might find themselves unemployed somewhere during their life. What is different this time is that white-collar people have been hit. To someone like me it is a cultural shock. I have never been out of work for a single day in my life."

His work in the South East of England brought him in little contact with people facing unemployment when the traditional smoke stack industries went into decline. "There were some who lost their jobs when smaller engineering companies went in the knock-on. But this part of the country was untouched by it all, until we began to see it in the construction industry."

Mr Hampson's last position was assistant manager at a branch in central London, handling securities. Some of his customers were investing "At the DSS they call me sir because I wear a tie and can fill in a form without any help. It is a different class of people who are jobless now," he said. Mr Hampson is determined to find work, but his first venture into an employment agency last Monday was not encouraging. "Very politely, when they heard I used to be in a bank they ushered me to the door without so much as taking my name."

Navy aids Customs in £30m drug swoop

Customs officers yesterday seized 10 tonnes of cannabis with a street value of about £30 million, the biggest haul for several years, in a raid on a British-registered oil rig support vessel in the North Sea. Customs and Excise said, investigators arrested six people after boarding the *Britannia Gazette* about 170 miles east of Newcastle.

It is understood that the vessel had been under surveillance for several weeks and that officers were continuing to search for two tonnes of cocaine — with a street value of about £200 million — thought to be hidden on board. The raid, carried out with the help of the Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel *HMS Shetland*, came after co-operation with foreign customs officers. Sir Brian Unwin, chairman of Customs and Excise, said: "This is a major seizure of a huge amount of cannabis after a long and skilful operation."

Stabbed gunman flees

An armed man who shot a jeweller in a shop in Brighton, East Sussex, yesterday was forced to flee after being stabbed in the stomach by a shop assistant. Police said it was believed that the assistant stabbed the attacker with a jeweller's file or similar object and that he fled, bleeding heavily. It was not known last night whether anything was stolen during the attack, at a shop in The Lanes. The jeweller, who was shot in the arm, was taken to the Royal Sussex County Hospital in the town.

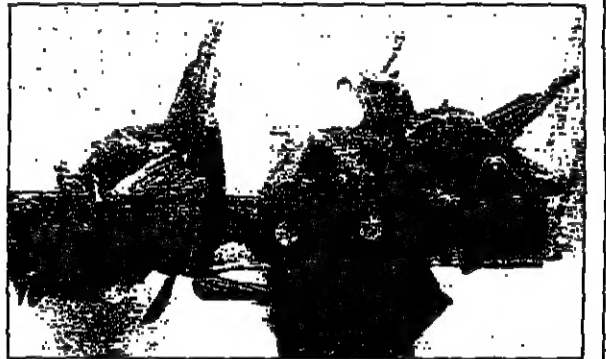
Student accuses doctor

A German student broke down in tears at the Old Bailey yesterday as she told of her shame after an alleged sexual attack by a Harley Street gynaecologist. Miss C, aged 20, told the jury at the Central Criminal Court that she had gone to Dr Thomas Courtney's premises hoping for a Saturday job. Dr Courtney, aged 46, from Cricklewood, north London, has denied indecently assaulting the student, raping two other women at his surgery and indecently assaulting a fourth. The trial was adjourned until Monday.

Hoaxer assaults baby

A woman posing as a social worker talked her way into a young mother's home and indecently assaulted her 10-month-old baby. A letter naming the child and saying that a social worker would call over allegations that the baby had been given drugs was delivered to the house four days before the incident in Nelson, Lancashire. The woman pushed past the 21-year-old mother into the house after accusing her of glue sniffing and carried out what police said was an indecent examination on the baby.

Rarest bats fly in



Six of the world's rarest bats — Livingstone's fruit, which has a 6ft wingspan — have been captured by a team from Bristol University and taken to Jersey Zoo to start a breeding programme. The bats, above, survive on only one island, Anjouan in the Comoros, but the researchers will have to return for more because they brought back only one female.

Freedom plea fails

Lorraine Osman, Britain's longest-serving unconvicted prisoner, yesterday failed in his ninth attempt to avoid extradition to Hong Kong for trial on fraud charges. Two High Court judges refused to grant a writ of habeas corpus to free him from Brixton prison seven years after his arrest, saying that he had produced no fresh evidence.

Setback to extradition

A tape recording in which Roderick Newall, 27, is alleged to have confessed to murdering his parents has been ruled inadmissible in an extradition hearing in Gibraltar. Judge Pizzarello ruled that Mr Newall, in a taped conversation with relatives at a hotel near Perth, "made no admission to murder". The case has been adjourned until Wednesday.

Residue in organic food

Up to a quarter of bread, bran, flour and potatoes produced organically and supposed to be untouched by man-made chemicals contains pesticide residues, according to a government report issued yesterday. Conventionally grown food is twice as likely to have them, the report says. Organic food residues are thought to arise from spraying in storage.

Table lists non-existent school

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE errors in the government's examination tables were discovered yesterday, including an entry for a non-existent school.

John Patten, the education secretary, faced fresh embarrassment over details for East Gate School, Nottingham. Fred Riddell, Nottinghamshire education chairman, said: "We have never had a school by that name." The school was credited with the results from William Crane Comprehensive School at Aspley, Nottingham, which was missed out.

Parliament Hill School, in the London borough of Camden, was shown to have no A-level passes when its average points score was 12.3.

Manchester High School for Girls, which threatened legal action after its 100 per cent record for pupils scoring five or more top GCSE grades was registered as 16 per cent, received an apology from Eric Forth, the schools minister.

A faulty computer disc issued by the department led to Norfolk and North Yorkshire's entries being transcribed in the School Report

CORRECTED EXAMINATION RESULTS	
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	
Wisbech Grammar (I) SI M 10-18	90 89 100 100 100 56 96 16.1
CAMDEN	
Parliament Hill (CM) Cm G 11-18	145 32 76 63 92 69 100 11.3
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	
Cheltenham College (I) Np B 6-18	111 95 100 100 100 128 100 21.4
HERTFORDSHIRE	
Hatfield (I) Np M 11-18	88 93 98 100 100 143 100 20.9
LANCASHIRE	
Kirkham Grammar School (I) Np M 5-18	74 91 100 100 100 64 100 21.8
LINCOLNSHIRE	
King Edward VI Grammar (CM) SI M 14-18	118 91 100 100 100 143 72 17.2
MERTON	
Wimbledon High (I) Np G 5-18	64 100 100 100 100 52 100 22.7
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
William Crane (CM) Cm M 11-16	117 9 53 41 75 — —
SHEFFIELD	
Sheffield High (I) Np G 5-18	74 92 92 92 92 62 84 19.0
WOLVERHAMPTON	
Wolverhampton Grammar (I) SI B 10-18	77 96 96 99 99 88 98 27.3
Royal Wolverhampton (I) Np M 11-18	51 51 73 78 84 29 93 10.7
St Edmunds RC (VA) Cm M 11-18	104 51 87 71 95 30 93 13.8
St Peter's Collegiate (VA) Cm M 11-18	146 47 95 71 98 53 96 14.8
Colton Hills (CM) Cm M 11-18	176 32 87 66 94 81 95 7.7
Highfields (CM) Cm M 11-18	225 29 88 61 96 51 88 18.4
Wednesfield High (CM) Cm M 11-18	191 29 79 60 87 57 91 7.1

supplement of Thursday's Times. Seven Wolverhampton schools listed here were omitted from the School Report tables due to a technical error. La Retraite School, in Salisbury, Wiltshire, was also omitted from the government's lists. All the school's 37 GCSE entries achieved a pass rate 80

per cent of them at A-C grades. The tables for Holyrood School at Chard, Somerset, showed 6 per cent of pupils achieving five or more A-C passes at GCSE instead of 46.9 per cent.

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Letters, page 15

Thin column of white smoke heralded disaster

■ Dozens of firefighters took only ten minutes to reach the castle but by then a human chain of estate workers was already bringing out priceless treasures

By STEWART TENDLER

A THIN trickle of white smoke rising in the late morning air above the grey towers and walls of Windsor Castle yesterday heralded the beginning of a blaze that sent flames leaping high over the battlements.

Within minutes, the smoke turned from white to black and then began to billow as the first of several hundred firemen from five brigades arrived. They found hastily formed human chains of estate and castle workers already trying to prevent catastrophe and rescue treasures.

The fire began in the Queen's private chapel near the basement of the Brunswick Tower where refurbishing work was under way. It spread rapidly.

Dean Landale, who was injured as he helped to remove paintings, said he and colleagues heard a shout of "fire" and then saw the chapel was an inferno with curtains on fire and walls burning.

"We dragged paintings into the gallery. I pulled three or four out with other people, then I touched one and felt my hands burning," he said.

David Palmer, a carpenter, was working in the Grand Vestibule on the first floor when the fire began. He said: "Somebody called for a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire. We went into St George's Hall with the extinguishers and we could see the fire was going to take hold any minute. It just burst through from the chapel area and the lads working there carried out the paintings which had been moved off the walls."

The alarm was raised at 11.37am and by 11.48am ten fire engines were on the scene.

By then the fire could be seen from outside the castle.

Phillip Price, 50, who works in the gift shop near Castle Hill said: "I thought it was a bonfire on the other side of the castle. Next time I looked, it was the height of the tower. There was masses of smoke and flames the height of the building, which is very high indeed."

St George's Hall, where the Queen holds state banquets, was one of the last sections of the castle to be renovated during a five-year project. Roger Carter, chairman of Berkshire County Council's environment committee, said: "It was due to be handed over shortly but I fear that a great many art treasures had already been put back in place. This is a tragedy for the Queen and the country."

Within the castle grounds a lone Gurkha guard, standing rigidly to attention with his rifle, remained unmoved as emergency services and journalists rushed all around him. Lorryloads of Life Guards arrived to join the rescue operation and estate workers hurried to the castle in green lorries.

The main quadrangle of the castle was filled with fire engines. A 60ft long carpet lay rolled up in plastic sheeting that had been placed on the grass. Hundreds of planks were littered around the grass area.

Human chains passed furniture out into Engine Court and the yard became littered with ornate sofas, cabinets and lampstands. Some items were loaded immediately into removal vans but others had to be left to stand in the damp air.



Source of the blaze: firemen aim a jet of water at the roof of the Queen's private chapel, where the fire started

By 12.12pm, the firemen were struggling and the number of appliances had gone up to 20. By 2.20pm, there were 35 appliances and men had been called from Surrey, Buckinghamshire, London and Oxfordshire. Fire investigation teams, including scientists from the government's research unit at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, were standing by.

Firemen on a hydraulic platform stood ready to douse

tongues of flame that occasionally flickered above the roof of the Brunswick Tower. The whole of the roof appeared to be alight at one stage. The flames were beaten back by the powerful water jet but then seemed to catch hold again.

Thick smoke continued to pour from the slit windows in the tower as darkness approached. Fire engines formed a circle around the perimeter of the courtyard,

where large plastic sheets were laid to protect the rescued furnishings and art works.

Workmen wearing white hats rested on piles of paintings, exhausted as they tried to save all the endangered valuable treasures. Piles of silverware lay on the ground as staff and helpers rushed to bring artefacts out of the building.

Viola Pemberton-Piggott said: "Work was going on in the area where the fire was. It was being rewired and the paintings had been taken down. I think they were stacked against the walls so it wasn't a question of getting them down. It was just a question of carrying them out. We are hoping that nothing precious has been damaged. There are Rembrandts, Van Dycks and lots of other paintings."

Photograph, page 1
Queen joins battle, page 1

Damage may exceed Hampton Court blaze

By JOHN YOUNG

THE damage to Windsor Castle is thought likely to exceed that caused to another royal palace, Hampton Court, in a disastrous fire in 1986. Like Hampton Court, the castle is not covered by conventional insurance but by government indemnity, which means that the taxpayer will face the bill for restoration.

The fire that gutted state apartments at Hampton Court is thought to have been caused by an overturned candle in a grace-and-favour apartment occupied by an elderly resident who died in the blaze. Most of the furniture and paintings were saved,

but the roof fell in, wrecking the interior, and thousands of gallons of water used to put out the blaze soaked the building. Restoration took six years and cost more than £10 million. The apartments were reopened by the Queen only four and a half months ago.

English Heritage, the government's advisory body, is expected to play a leading role in assessing damage to the castle and recommending how to repair it. John Thorneycroft, of English Heritage, said: "I am sure it will be some time before we can agree on what sort of strategy should be brought into play."

The Queen helps staff to rescue treasures

Continued from page 1
private chapel by picture restorers packing paintings for storage. Within three hours the adjoining St George's Hall, the scene of magnificent state banquets, had been gutted and its fine timber roof largely collapsed.

The Queen, who arrived in mid-afternoon while flames were still leaping from the roof of her traditional weekend home, was said to be "utterly devastated". One of her staff said: "She feels as you would feel if you arrived to find your home on fire." After talking to fire officers in the Quadrangle among a confusion of fire appliances, ambulances, hoses and turntable ladders, she went to her private apartments and helped staff to take pictures from the walls and personal effects from her rooms.

One of the first on the scene was the Duke of York, who had been engaged in research work for his army staff college course in another part of the castle. The castle's volunteer fire brigade were attempting to tackle the blaze as appliances raced towards Windsor from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and London.

The Duke helped to co-ordinate the rescue by the castle's 300 staff and contractors to remove carpets, paintings, porcelain and other works of art from rooms near by. He and helpers managed to strip the Waterloo Chamber of most of its moveable contents in 30 minutes.

The Duke later spoke of a magnificent effort to save the contents, and said that only six or eight paintings appeared to have been lost, all of them in the private chapel.

where Queen Victoria worshipped and where generations of the royal family have been christened, confirmed or married.

At least three people were injured during the fire fighting, none of them seriously. There was no indication last night of the cause of the fire. However, that area of the castle is undergoing renovation and rewiring work.



Royal concern: the Queen hears the latest news from firemen tackling the blaze at the castle

Greatest art collection in world could be damaged

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

THE collapse of Christopher Lloyd, keeper of the Queen's pictures, spoke volumes. On hearing of the fire he rushed to Windsor from his office at Buckingham Palace, but on arrival he collapsed with a suspected heart attack and was taken to hospital.

The art collections at Windsor Castle are among the richest in the world. In the state apartments there are royal family portraits by the scores. Charles II by Van Dyck, Queen Charlotte by Benjamin West, various princes by John Copley. Aesthetic relief is provided by a pair of views of Venice by Canaletto. Mounted porcelain, lavish French furniture, tapestries and armour abound.

Were the fire to have extended into the Royal Library, which forms a dog's leg off the state apartments, thousands of priceless drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Holbein might have gone up in smoke. As Sir Roy Strong, former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum said, the Queen's collection is the greatest in the world, and the greatest concentration is at Windsor. The fire, he added, could be "one of the great national heritage tragedies of this century".

Philippa Giamville, a curator at the V&A, who used to

work in the royal library at Windsor, said: "This fire looks much worse than that at Hampton Court. It has struck at the heart of the monarchy, what with this concentration of artworks and all these grand rooms."

Witnesses reported members of staff forming human chains to pass out precious



Lloyd: taken to hospital after collapse

vases, ancient books, paintings and candelabra to safety, while the courtyard outside the state apartments was filling with works of art.

Many of the major movable works were understood to have been taken from their usual places during the rewiring programme. Some paintings had recently been in a

touring exhibition. The greatest fears were for the decorative works of art that form the fabric of the building and cannot be moved. Those include ornate wood carvings in the King's Dining Room by Grinling Gibbons (1648-1720), master carver to King George I.

Carved in the form of exquisite flowers, fruit and game, often strung together in garlands and festoons, such work was described by Horace Walpole, Gibbons's contemporary, as evoking "the loose and airy lightness of flowers" as well as chaining together "the various productions of the elements with the free disorder natural to the species". In Walpole's opinion he had no match.

Also at risk in the King's Dining Room is a flamboyant ceiling painting showing the banquet of the gods by Antonio Verrio (1630-1707), an Italian decorative painter who settled in England, working on a number of projects at Windsor, Hampton Court and Whitehall Palace.

As for the Queen's private chapel, in which the blaze seems to have started, the fire will have taken its toll on a building that was started in the reign of Elizabeth I and furnished during the Victorian era.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Dubcek — when the Soviets stormed in

A young civilian was killed in front of our eyes. At about 9am, seven or eight Soviet paratroopers and one or two officers burst



into my office. It was like an armed robbery. I moved towards a phone on my desk, one of the soldiers aimed his gun at me, grasped the phone and tore the cable out of the wall...

Alexander Dubcek, in the first exclusive extract from his autobiography, *Hope Dies Last* — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Lodger sentenced to life for strangling boy in sex attack

By Peter Victor

A LODGER who crept into a four-year-old boy's bedroom at night and strangled him into silence while sexually assaulting him was jailed for life yesterday.

James Cochrane, 25, was found guilty of murdering Matthew Robinson at his parents' boarding house in Plymouth, Devon, in April. Mr Justice Leonard, sentencing at Exeter Crown Court, recommended that he should serve at least 25 years in jail.

Cochrane, a Maltese-born sailor's son, attacked Matthew two weeks after moving into the terraced boarding house.

He had denied murder but admitted committing a serious sexual offence on Matthew, for which he was

sentenced to 15 years to be served concurrently.

The jury was told that one night he crept from his ground-floor room to the unlocked first-floor bedroom Matthew shared with his nine-year-old brother Jason.

Cochrane, unemployed, carried out what a paediatrician said was an "extreme, sudden and brutal" sex assault on the sleeping Matthew causing "horrific" injuries.

Cochrane killed Matthew because he had to silence any screams that would have woken his brother or his parents, who were on the next floor.

After he was found guilty, the court was told that six years ago at Winchester Crown Court, Cochrane was convicted

of attempting to commit a serious sexual offence on a boy of nearly four and was put on probation for two years.

Before yesterday's verdict, Paul Chadli, for the prosecution, said that a psychiatrist who saw Cochrane after Matthew's murder described him as "a very dangerous man indeed". He told the court Matthew suffered a "time of hell" at Cochrane's hands.

In a second report, prepared after documents were found in Cochrane's cell, the psychiatrist said he would remain a serious danger for perhaps as long as he was capable of sexual arousal.

The judge, recommending a minimum 25-year jail term, said he hoped that it would bring Cochrane "to the situation where it is unlikely you will have a desire which produced the terrible facts of this case".

Outside the court yesterday Det Supt Malcolm Court, who led the murder enquiry, said the case had been the worst possible for anyone to investigate. Everyone had been "disgusted" by Cochrane's actions.

Christine Robinson, Matthew's mother, said after the hearing that a system of checks should be introduced to prevent another tragedy involving people with previous convictions for serious sex offences.

"There must be some liaison between social services, housing and the probation service. They should be saying that we don't recommend this person stay with you because you have small children," she said.

"We will never recover from Matthew's death, but he is with me eternally. I do feel responsible for letting Cochrane in the front door and not kicking him out when I had the chance, but I don't feel guilty."

She described Cochrane as a time bomb waiting to go off from the minute he walked into their house.

Mrs Robinson said the family wanted to sell up and go home to Australia with Matthew's ashes, which they planned to scatter in the garden of their new home so he would always be with them.

"Matthew was a fragile butterfly, beautiful and vulnerable," she said. "He was so expressive and loving. He would look for me in the house, put his hands on my cheeks and say 'Oh I do love you.'"



Grieving mother: Christine Robinson at a press conference yesterday

Schoolboy admits shops blackmail

By Kate Alderson

A BOY of 14 who tried to obtain £20,000 by threatening to blow up two supermarkets and their managers' homes was told by a judge yesterday to "go away and rebuild your life".

The boy, who attends an independent school in Reading and was wearing his school tie and blazer, told Judge John Rogers QC at the Central Criminal Court that he had intended to keep the money in a garden shed for when he was older.

The court was told that more than 30 police officers were called in to trap the blackmailer. They waited at the designated pick-up point behind a store in Ealing, west London, on May 30. The boy was arrested at midnight after he appeared and grabbed a bag that he thought held the cash.

He had typed out blackmail letters and made only one spelling mistake, despite being dyslexic. He sent them to Sainsbury's and Waitrose supermarkets near his home in West Ealing on May 27 this year, demanding £10,000 from each. The notes to the stores' managers, threatening to blow up their homes, ended: "So no police and you will not be harmed."

Judge Rogers gave the boy a conditional discharge for three years after he admitted two offences of blackmail. The judge said: "I would like to think that you understand the terrible thing you did." He was concerned about the boy's "cold deliberation" in planning the crime.

A conditional discharge was wholly inadequate but the Criminal Justice Act had tied his hands. Probation and psychiatric reports showed that a custodial sentence was not appropriate, but there was no sentence in between. He added that the boy should be supervised, but kept in the community.

"I suggest you go away, try to rebuild your life and don't do anything like this again."

James Parker, an aspiring comedian from London, paid £110 for a signed self portrait of the music hall star George Robey. Mr Parker said: "Ben is my role model, he's the master technician. He had the most expressive face, he could say a thousand words with his eyes."

Mr Hill died in April, aged 67. The *Benny Hill Show* was broadcast in more than 100 countries and is still shown nightly in the United States. His fans include Michael Jackson and Clint Eastwood.

The tellers of tall tales who know no limits

By Ronald Faux

DEREK Martin is a retired aircraft inspector by trade and a liar by inclination. According to judges at an annual competition in Wasdale, Cumbria, the tall, scholarly looking man from Preston is the biggest liar in the world.

The contest, from which politicians, clergy and estate agents are banned because they are thought to be merely economical with the truth, has been held for more than a century. This year's event attracted a man from Kansas—or at least so he claimed, for nothing can be taken at face value. He won third prize.

It is not the lie itself but the way it is told that impresses the judges. Mr Martin's complicated tale of how the fur on the

monarch's crown was actually Reg White's cap worn back to front as a headache preventer won massive approval.

In the past, the competition has attracted television crews from Japan and America and journalists from Russia fascinated by this display of English eccentricity.

The story recalled with greatest glee by the liars of Wasdale is the time when the late Tommy Purdon, a farmer, stood up from the audience and declared that, although he was not taking part in the competition, he would like to make a few remarks. The cameras stopped rolling and the television lights went out. He was, of course, lying and went on to win.

Mackay seeks aid to fight abductions

By Lin Jenkins

WIDER international co-operation is needed to help combat child abduction, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said he hoped that other countries would improve their procedures to the standards in Britain so that abducted children were returned quickly.

Speaking last night on the BBC's *Public Eye* programme, he said that while there was still room for improvement in the legal procedures he felt that Britain had a good standard of helping the return of abducted children. "I hope that others will be able, gradually, to improve their procedures to reach the same kind of standard."

His department has seen a 12-fold rise in the number of abductions in the past five years. Spain is chief among signatories in failing to implement the rules of the Hague Convention on abduction, which provides for abducted children to be returned to their country of residence. A review of the convention, to be held in The Hague next month, is

likely to focus on Spain's attitude to requests from other governments.

The Lord Chancellor's department dealt with 191 cases last year of child snatching under the convention, which covers only signatory countries and children born within marriage. Reunited, the only body which gives advice on the problem, believes the total to be nearer 1,200, many of them with little chance of returning since they are in countries such as Italy, Greece, Belgium and the Arab states, who are not signatories to the convention.

A former schools inspector has been chosen as the first Chief Inspector of magistrates' courts in England and Wales, Lord Mackay announced yesterday.

Rosemary Melling, 54, at present a senior member of the National Health Service training directorate, will be the Lord Chancellor's chief adviser on magistrates' courts' business when the new Magistrates' Courts Service Inspectorate comes into force next year.



Matthew: an expressive and loving child



Cochrane: will serve at least 25 years

Life for psychopath who preyed on girls

A PSYCHOPATH who attacked schoolgirls after stalking them and studying their movements in a 19-year series of offences was given four life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Melvin Philbert, 36, an actor, compiled details of proposed victims in his diary. He included the code "FS" and "OS" — meaning he intended to have full and oral sex.

In one case, the phrase "poss. term" appeared — which Philbert told detectives meant that he was prepared to kill his planned 14-year-old victim if escape from his home became difficult.

Philbert, from Southwark, south London, a divorced man with two daughters, admitted

15 offences including grievous bodily harm, attempted rape, indecent assault, robbery, aggravated burglary and going equipped to steal. He asked the court to consider 12 more offences.

David Walters, for the prosecution, said Philbert sometimes chose his victims from reports in local newspapers, followed the youngsters to their homes and plotted the family's movements to discover when the girls would be alone. He usually carried a knife, mask and gloves, and sometimes tape.

The court was told that he was arrested in May after he had molested girls who were on a school outing to the National History Museum.

Comic's beret caps auction

By Julia Llewellyn Smith

THE navy blue beret and splintered spectacles that were the trademarks of Benny Hill's blithering buffoon sold for £1,120 to an anonymous bidder at a charity auction yesterday.

More than 100 fans packed the tiny auction house in Ringwood, Hampshire, near Mr Hill's home town of Southampton to see a Mr Steinbeck pay £520 for the beret and £600 for the pair of damaged spectacles that Hill wore in Fred Scott sketches. Both were expected to fetch no more than £150.

Bidding on behalf of his mystery client, Mr Steinbeck also paid £300 for an original Franklin cartoon and £440 for a fan letter to Mr Hill from Phil Silvers, the American comedian better known as Sergeant Bilko.

The 54 lots on offer, made up of pieces of Mr Hill's furniture and personal memorabilia, fetched a total of £9,458, most of which will go



Hill: auction proceeds will help Somalia

to the Care appeal for Somalia at the request of Mr Hill's family.

Among the big bidders was Seth Rushby Kaye, a private collector from New York, who paid £1,120 for six lots of photographs of Mr Hill with celebrities such as Burt Reynolds and Bob Geldof, or surrounded by the models and actresses who made up his Hill's Angels. Mr Kaye, who described himself as an

"eclectic collector", said: "I'm doubly thrilled to have acquired these lots, and to acknowledge Mr Hill's family for being willing to donate their proceeds to Care."

Most of Mr Hill's devotees were attending their first auction and many complained of being squeezed out by the big collectors. "I think this Mr Steinbeck is very greedy to snap up so much and leave nothing for the ordinary fans," said one woman.

James Parker, an aspiring comedian from London, paid £110 for a signed self portrait of the music hall star George Robey. Mr Parker said: "Ben is my role model, he's the master technician. He had the most expressive face, he could say a thousand words with his eyes."

Mr Hill died in April, aged 67. The *Benny Hill Show* was broadcast in more than 100 countries and is still shown nightly in the United States. His fans include Michael Jackson and Clint Eastwood.

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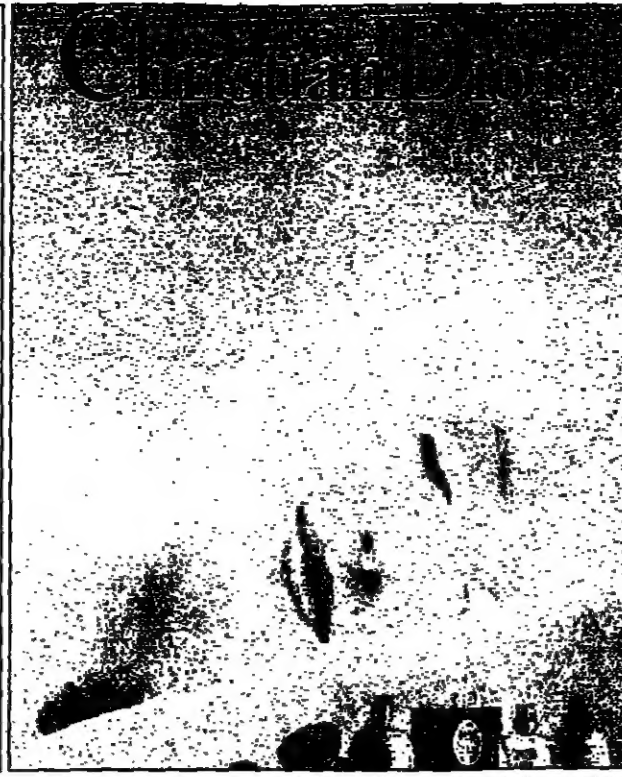
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Images of elegance: but the perfume industry says that the mystique promoted through its advertising will be destroyed by sales of its products in discount shops

Whiff of scandal drifts across perfume counters

BY KATE ALDERSON

DIRTY tricks, unofficial supply routes and middlemen have become watchwords in the world of perfume, which prefers to portray images of beauty, seduction and bliss.

Attempts by unauthorised retailers to obtain supplies and by perfume houses to frustrate them can be expected to intensify in the weeks before Christmas. The retailers, who sell at discounts of up to 30 per cent, have been stocking shelves for the coming month, when most perfume is sold.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission will spend the next nine months investigating the world of perfumes, whose glamorous image has been tarnished

The investigation into the perfume industry announced by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on Thursday could threaten the large profit margins of the fragrance houses and shatter their image of exclusivity.

Meanwhile, buyers for

unauthorised retailers scurry about the "grey market" in Europe, America and the Middle East in search of wholesalers willing to supply them. This is not illegal but the fragrance houses do everything they can to stop them. Retailers had to learn quick-

ly about the grey market, estimated to be worth £600 million worldwide, when fragrance houses such as Chanel, Parfums Givenchy and Christian Dior refused to supply them because they were thought too downmarket and could "ruin the dream".

One buyer, who wished to be anonymous, said: "The fragrance houses have been very unsuccessful at stopping the grey market. For the past six months I have been travelling around Europe, in the main, looking for wholesalers and middlemen who can sell me the full range of fine fragrances. Their supplies come from the perfume houses, and then the wholesalers sell it to me. It is virtually impossible for the perfume houses to find out which of the wholesalers are supplying unauthorised retailers. Estée

Lauder are reported to have sacked some of its distributors who broke its rules.

"I'm buying from around a dozen suppliers at the moment. These guys are very secretive. When they ring me up in the office, they use an alias. Other ways in which distributors cover their tracks include removing or defacing tracer codes on the packaging. The buyer said: "It is very easy to get certain perfumes on the market and it does appear that some fragrance houses are not trying too hard to stop it. At the end of the day it's all sales, and of course publicity."

A spokesman from Parfums Givenchy said: "Superdrug, for example, does not have the right image. It's a discount toiletries retailer. We spend a lot of money training our staff and providing the right envi-

ronment for our customers. Do you want to know that you have been given a cut-price gift for Christmas or a top luxury good?"

Givenchy, like some other fragrance houses, has a checklist to assess whether a shop is suitable to stock its products. Criteria include length of windows, whether the floor-covering is linoleum or marble and the size of mirrors.

Spilling tactics by some fragrance houses have been alleged by Superdrug in its submission to the Office of Fair Trading. They include one perfume house demanding that Superdrug reveal its sources, claiming it believed that its product might have been stolen. An executive from another store arrived at a Superdrug store with £2,500 in cash and tried to buy back his company's entire stock.

Credo

A painful search for greater good

The Bishop of Oxford

I am glad Dr Nigel Cox is able to continue practising as a doctor. But I regard his treatment of Lilian Boyes, however compassionate the motive, as wrong. The case of Tony Bland, however, is different. I believe that Dr Cox made a mis-



judgment but that ceasing to treat Tony Bland, even ceasing to feed him by artificial means, could be morally justified. The High Court was, I believe, right in its decision.

Motives need to be distinguished from the objective intention of an action and its consequences. Our motives are known only to God but an action can be judged right or wrong. Furthermore, Christian moral theology maintains that an action that is intrinsically wrong cannot be made right by its consequences.

This means that administering a potentially lethal dose of potassium chloride, whatever the motive, and however desirable it is to put the person out of pain, is wrong. On the other hand, administering appropriate doses of morphine, which also have the effect of shortening life, is justified. The objective intention of the action is to reduce pain. The consequences of this intrinsically good action have to be weighed, but a shorter life with less pain is a greater good than a prolonged life with more pain.

This kind of structure is essential to other moral dilemmas. In a just war it is morally legitimate to aim at an arms factory, even if some civilians in the surrounding area will be killed. It is intrinsically wrong to aim at civilians who are not directly contributing to the war effort. However, even when an attack on a military target is called for, the consequences have to be weighed. In some circumstances the unintended but foreseen deaths would outweigh any possible good.

Some people wish to collapse the distinction between what is directly intended and what is foreseen but unintended. But the distinction is essential to Christian moral theology. Though it is disputable it is also defensible. As far as medical ethics are concerned, the distinction between deliberately killing and letting a person die

when there is no obligation to unnecessarily prolong painful life is essential. When we come to the Tony Bland case there are other considerations. Moral theology, like medicine and law, distinguishes between ordinary and extraordinary means of medical treatment. Papal statements make it clear that there is no obligation to keep someone alive by extraordinary or disproportionate means.

But what counts as ordinary? Feeding someone would normally be regarded as ordinary and therefore obligatory. But artificially feeding someone in a persistent vegetative state does not, I believe, carry that obligation.

The distinguished American ethicist Paul Ramsey was clear that euthanasia is wrong. Even if a person is old, ill and in pain, there can be no reason "to hasten them from the here-and-now in which they still claim a faithful presence for us".

There is, however, an exception, when a person becomes "so gravely incapacitated as to have no human care". The test is whether it makes no difference whether their death is by an intravenous bubble or by withdrawal of ordinary means, such as food and liquid. If a person feels no suffering and is aware of no human presence, if as far as they are concerned, it makes no difference whether they are hastened on their way by an act of commission or omission; if they are beyond all forms of care — then this situation dying might be hastened by appropriate means.

It is a troublesome question whether a person in a persistent vegetative state is still a person or simply a living corpse. The judge, Sir Stephen Brown, said of Tony Bland: "His spirit has left him and all that remains is the shell of his body." It is difficult to avoid slipping into a kind of body-mind dualism that is inimical to modern philosophy and theology, as well as medicine. But here it seems to be called for.

Our duty towards the dying is to accompany them on their way and not abandon them before their time. But if a person has already gone, that obligation no longer exists.

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Green paper opens up debate on BBC future

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE government has distanced itself from any radical proposals for a shake-up of the BBC in its green paper on the future of the corporation, to be published on Monday.

Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, has said that the green paper will set the terms of the debate about the renewal of the BBC's royal charter in 1996, rather than make policy recommendations. Mr Brooke believes that it is too early for the government to set in stone any plans for the future of broadcasting, given a proliferation of commercial channels

and rapid technological change.

The government intends there to be a wide public consultation process in the six months after the publication of the green paper, *The Future of the BBC*. Only in late 1993 or early 1994 will it make its views known in a white paper.

Monday's green paper, setting out alternatives for funding the corporation, will offer implicit support for continuation of the licence fee, at least until the end of the decade. Mr Brooke has conceded that advertising on the BBC would

threaten the new ITV companies, which jointly face an annual bill from the Treasury of almost £500 million after last year's licence auction.

Subscription is given more emphasis in the document, but heritage officials doubt whether such a system, which could cost the BBC as much as £200 million to implement, would ensure that two mainstream channels with a public service remit were adequately funded.

Subscription would require decoders and changes to television sets and would need to be updated constantly to keep ahead of developments in pirate technology. Programme budgets could suffer unless subscription charges were significantly higher than the annual £80 licence fee.

Clues to the government's thinking will be provided as much by what is not said as by what is. The argument propagated by Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thetford North and chairman of the party's backbench media committee, that BBC1 and BBC2 should merge, will be virtually ignored. However, Mr Brooke and his colleagues are thought to be more sympathetic to the idea of closing some radio stations, including Radios 1 and 2 and some local stations. The green paper draws no conclusions.

Mr Brooke is expected to pour cold water on Melvyn Bragg's call for an "arts council of the airwaves", which would give out licence fees money to commercial stations as well as the BBC. Sir Michael Checkland, the outgoing BBC director-general, and his successor, John Birt, are privately worried by the Public Service Broadcasting Council proposal, believing that the BBC would be destroyed as funding slowly ebbed away. The corporation will present its own 90-page document on Wednesday.

British climber lost in jungle air crash

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

RELATIVES of a British mountaineer are clinging to the hope that he and his wife are alive almost a week after the Vietnam Airlines jet in which they were travelling crashed into thick jungle during a thunderstorm.

Hamish Emmerson, 38, and his French-born wife Sylvie, who live in Abu Dhabi, were heading from Ho Chi Minh City to the seaside resort of Nha Trang during a holiday when the three-engine jet, a Russian-built Yak 40, went down.

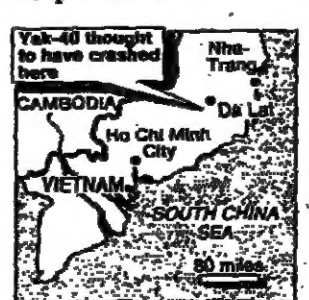
Mr Emmerson's sister, Elizabeth Hart, said last night: "If anyone could survive it was Hamish and Sylvie. He has spent a great deal of time in the Himalayas and is trained in survival. His wife is a doctor who works for Médecins sans Frontières."

The family learnt of the crash on Monday and know that the plane left Ho Chi Minh City for the 280-mile flight to Nha Trang, where a fierce tropical storm was rag-

ing. It is believed to have come down on a 5,000ft high mountain.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that a senior diplomat had been sent to work with the Vietnamese authorities.

Helicopters were unable to make a detailed search, but a man was lowered on a winch and found wreckage from the aircraft in the branches of the trees and some damage to the jungle canopy. "The only way to reach the site would appear to be on foot, which will mean hacking through the jungle," the spokesman said.



Price of Lely paintings soars

THE auction record for the 17th century English court artist Sir Peter Lely soared at Christie's yesterday when two portraits sold for £396,000 and £286,000 respectively to an anonymous buyer (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). The previous record had been £70,400 in July 1990, and the result shows Lely catching up with his contemporaries Van Dyck and Frans Hals, whose records are £880,000 and £680,000.

The paintings, *A Girl playing a Theorb* and *A Man playing a Violin* were from a series of six *Historical Compositions* of musicians by the artist, two of which are in the Tate Gallery. Having passed by descent from the first Lord Craven, an important patron of van Dyck and Lely, their authorship had been forgotten by the 18th century and Horace Walpole described them as *Five Italian Musicians by Francis Hals*. Yesterday, the

pair were sold by the executors of the late Dr Daniel McLean McDonald, founder of BSR, the hi-fi components manufacturer, and inventor of a device for stacking gramophone records. A third painting from the set, showing a young man playing a lute and thought by Christie's to be a portrait of the artist, went unsold at £50,000.

Born in Holland in 1618, Lely came to England in the early 1640s, offering a line in figure compositions and landscapes. He soon turned to the more profitable field of portraiture and became the leading exponent of his field. He is associated chiefly with the Restoration court of Charles II, where he was Principal Painter.

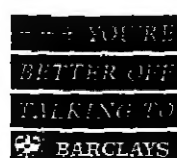
A writing desk, said to be made for Napoleon's use during his exile on St Helena, sold for £165,000, or four times its estimate, at Sotheby's yesterday, to a Swiss foundation.

Barclays Bank PLC

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Compromise aims to avoid schism

Bishop drafts plans for two-tier church

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to enable disaffected Anglicans to remain within the Church of England are being drawn up by the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope. He led 12 bishops yesterday in issuing a statement that acknowledged the "considerable anxiety, distress and hurt" felt by many laity and clergy after last week's General Synod vote to ordain women priests.

In an interview with *The Times* last night, Dr Hope said that he was considering a system of "episcopal visitors", by which bishops who opposed women priests would travel between dioceses to ordain priests and do confirmations where local priests were unable to accept the authority of a diocesan bishop who ordained women.

Dr Hope aims to draw up a formula that will enable traditionalists to remain in the church. His plans emerged as *The Tablet* published a survey of 300 Roman Catholic priests which showed one third in

favour of women priests. Traditionalists who defect to the Catholic Church could be surprised by the support for women priests.

Dr Hope, the third most senior bishop, said that he would work from proposals in the Ripon Paper, published last year. This would mean, in effect, a two-tier Church of England but would avoid schism or the creation of a "church within a church".

His scheme will be greeted with relief by Anglo-Catholics and evangelicals who oppose women priests but feel that their opposition is expected to blow over as the legislation progresses through Parliament. Dr Hope is keen to take such opposition seriously in the hope of avoiding schism, disunity and mass defections to the Catholic Church.

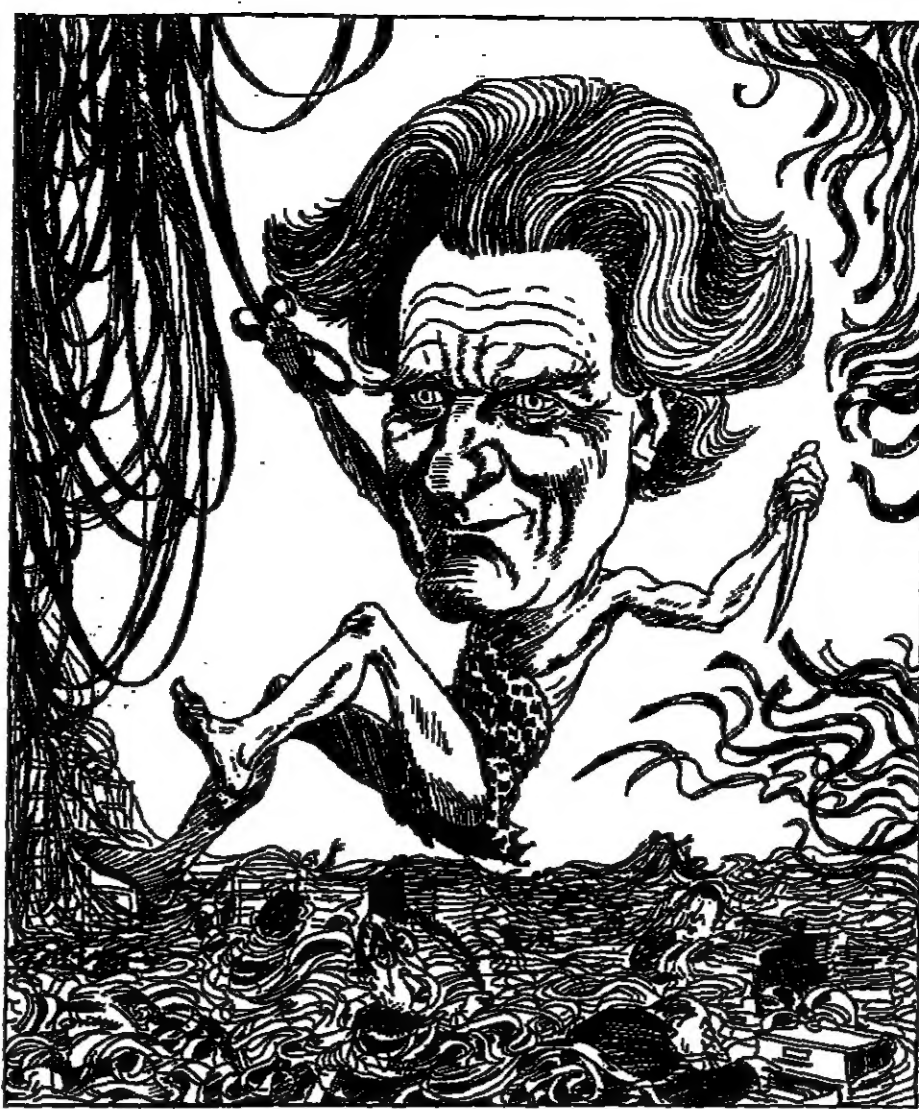
Bishops who voted against the legislation last week said in a statement yesterday: "We understand and sympathise with those who now feel uncertain and unsure as to

their long-term future within the Church of England. It is difficult to see how the legislation, as drafted, can be made to work effectively. They will press the House of Bishops at its meeting next January to make "adequate provision" for opponents.

The Catholic bishops' conference gave a qualified encouragement to members of the Church of England considering a move to Rome. The Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and chairman of the bishops' conference committee on Christian unity, said: "We would want to do what we can to help." However, there was more to becoming a Catholic than opposing women priests.

The bishops issued a statement expressing "profound regret" at the General Synod decision because it reinforced obstacles to the reconciliation of ministries.

Leading article, page 15



Heseltine joins drive to reduce red tape

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister is to increase his efforts to free business from needless restrictions imposed by Whitehall and Brussels regulations.

John Major is to chair a seminar of all government departments in the new year aimed at giving greater impetus to his crusade against red tape. Meanwhile, the trade and industry department is to conduct surveys of firms to identify petty rules hampering innovation and expansion. Talks are also to be held with business leaders.

The decisions were taken yesterday at a meeting at Downing Street involving Mr Major, Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and Neil Hamilton, the corporate affairs minister at the trade department.

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, who retired this month as chairman of the Sainsbury supermarket company, is to be Mr Heseltine's personal adviser on scrapping red tape.

Mr Heseltine has already asked every Whitehall department to draw up, by the end of the year, a list of all regulations and forms affecting business.

Departments, which each have a minister responsible for deregulation, will then have to set out their plans for simplifying the rule-book. "As you can imagine, it is quite a long list and it will take quite some time to compile," a trade department source said. "That will form a mechanism for systematic and continuous review of regulation."

The high-powered nature of the ministerial group overseeing the attempt to reduce bureaucratic obstacles is being taken as a sign of Mr Major's determination to flesh out his promises. The government campaign against red tape dates from 1985, but it has been given a higher priority by Mr Heseltine and Mr Major. Mr Hamilton is meeting all the Whitehall ministers individually to review progress.

At the Conservative party conference last month, Mr Major said that the government was "on the march against the Eurocrat and his sheaf of directives" and that he wanted to prune Whitehall and town hall red tape. He said he was appointing Mr Heseltine, popularly known as Tazman, to hack through the bureaucratic jungle.

Libya given warning on bomb pair

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE prime minister has spoken of the "increasingly serious" consequences for Libya if two men suspected of carrying out the Lockerbie bombing are not surrendered to the Scottish or American authorities.

In a reply to a written question from John Greenwood, Conservative MP for Ryedale, John Major said that there could be "no question of any relaxation of UN sanctions" until Libya handed over the two men and satisfied French demands for co-operation into a separate bombing. If Libya could convince Britain that it had decided to surrender the two, "then we would be willing to meet them to discuss the mechanics".

Mr Major said that he could report some "limited success" in achieving Libyan compliance with UN resolutions demanding an end to assistance to terrorist groups. He said that Libya had closed many of its training camps and provided information on its links with the IRA which "may prove useful".

Mr Major denied that the government was using the issue of the two suspects as an excuse to attack the authority of Colonel Gaddafi. "We have no hidden agenda, and we are not seeking to undermine the regime in Libya."

Tory whip halts bill on Masons

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR MP said last night that he will persist with his campaign to force those in public life to declare membership of the Freemasons, after a government whip blocked his bill in the Commons.

When Chris Mullin's Secret Societies (Declaration) bill came up for second reading, a shout of "object" by Greg Knight, Conservative MP for Derby North, returned it to the queue of measures introduced by backbench MPs. The bill stands no chance of becoming law this session without government support.

Mr Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, protested at Mr Knight's action, but appeared undeterred in his campaign to compel MPs, councillors, the judiciary, police officers and other public servants to declare membership of "secret" societies such as Masonic lodges.

In 1986, a questionnaire was sent to MPs asking if those in public life should declare their membership of the Freemasons. John Major was one who believed they should, Mr Mullin said.

His bill defines secret societies as organisations that are closed to the public, with a private membership list and where a commitment to secrecy and allegiance is taken.

Irish Mr Integrity yearns for a seat

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Michael McDowell, the eminent lawyer, chairman of the Progressive Democrats and the Mr Integrity of Irish politics, is probably the country's most powerful unelected politician. Failing to get a seat for a second time in succession next Wednesday will be particularly frustrating. However, it is a likely outcome in Dublin South-East, a constituency dominated by Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour.

The Democrats' chairman has had to sit on the sidelines while other members of the party led by Des O'Malley have played an important part in the coalition with Fianna Fáil. There is no doubt, however, that his behind-the-scenes influence was crucial to the way the coalition developed, particularly through moments such as the ousting in January of Charles Haughey, the former Fianna Fáil leader, and the decision two weeks ago to pull out of government and precipitate the election.

The Democrat chairman denies that he was really the hidden hand guiding his party through a tempestuous marriage with Fianna Fáil. "I was largely a spectator. There is this notion that I'm the chief ideologist on the political bureau, but it's not true."

Mr McDowell's struggle to be elected reflects the wider difficulty the Democrats have experienced in trying to maintain their foothold in Irish politics. Having surpassed their

wildest expectations in their first election in 1987, when they returned 14 members after walking out of Fianna Fáil in protest at the way the party was run, they have since slumped and held only six seats in the last Dáil.

This time they are again running on the "high standards in high places" platform, with policies on tax reform to stimulate employment, women's rights, the environment and constitutional reform. But the party seems to have had difficulty convincing voters it is there to stay and many seem to resent the disproportionately powerful role it played in the last government.

While Mr McDowell hopes for between nine and 11 seats this time, including one for himself, the opinion polls that put the Democrats on 6 per cent indicate the party may even lose a seat or two.

It looks destined to continue as a minor player in coalition governments, something which could kill it in the end. But Mr McDowell denies that his party could be facing political extinction. He has not ruled out going back with Fianna Fáil in the immediate future, but his preference would be for a three-way coalition with Fine Gael and Labour. "The country needs a change. There's a big appetite for change. The best prospect is for some form of inter-party government."

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مكتبة الأصل

Yugoslav sanctions tightened

Western allies order full naval blockade

European nations are impatient with attacks on their troops and the flouting of sanctions. Now they are getting tough with Belgrade

By JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NATO yesterday agreed to enforce the United Nations trade embargo on the rump Yugoslavia, giving its vessels in the Adriatic power to stop and search merchant ships suspected of violating the ban, a spokesman said in Brussels. The Western European Union defence group meeting in Rome also ordered a full naval blockade in the Adriatic.

Both decisions came after French UN troops fired back when they were shot at on

Thursday while escorting a humanitarian aid convoy at Bosanska Krupa in northwest Bosnia, a UN official said in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

Serb forces yesterday launched a heavy artillery attack on the suburbs of Travnik in eastern Bosnia, apparently to try to open a corridor towards Sarajevo. British UN troops in Vitez, near Travnik, sent two Warrior armoured cars to investigate conditions around the

town, which is defended by Muslim and Croat forces and is an important centre for refugees.

In Rome, the WEU also appealed to countries along the Danube to guarantee "the rigid implementation of the content of the UN resolutions". The WEU said it was ready to offer knowledge, technical assistance and material to impede violation of the sanctions.

Naval and air forces of the WEU "will begin direct operations to ensure the rigid implementation of the naval embargo... including stop-and-search actions and other necessary measures", it said in a statement. Italy, the current WEU chairman, called for the number of naval vessels operating in the Adriatic under WEU auspices to be increased from five to seven.

Earlier, Michalis Papaconstantinou, the Greek foreign minister, signed a protocol admitting Greece as a full member of the WEU, widening the fledgling role of the organisation as the defence arm of the European Community. Greece's membership requires ratification by the other nine members - Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. It is thought ratification will be used to exert pressure on Athens to end suspected Greek violations of the embargo on the former Yugoslavia, diplomatic sources said.

The foreign and defence ministers of Turkey, Norway and Iceland were late yesterday to sign agreements making them associate members of the WEU. Denmark and Ireland, although full EC members, have agreed only to observer status.

In Belgrade yesterday Slobodan Milosevic, the headline Serbian leader, announced that he would stand for re-election in a December 20 poll.

Yeltsin, page 15

Shots in the dark disarm UK troops

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN KLADANJ

STANDING outside the temporary British forward base for supplying Tuzla in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, The Cheshire Regiment captain put it succinctly: "This is a dodgy area."

Three miles from one of the Serb front lines, we were kept awake by a machine-gun operator who seemed to have parked his weapon near the hotel bedroom window. Artillery and mortar fire could be heard.

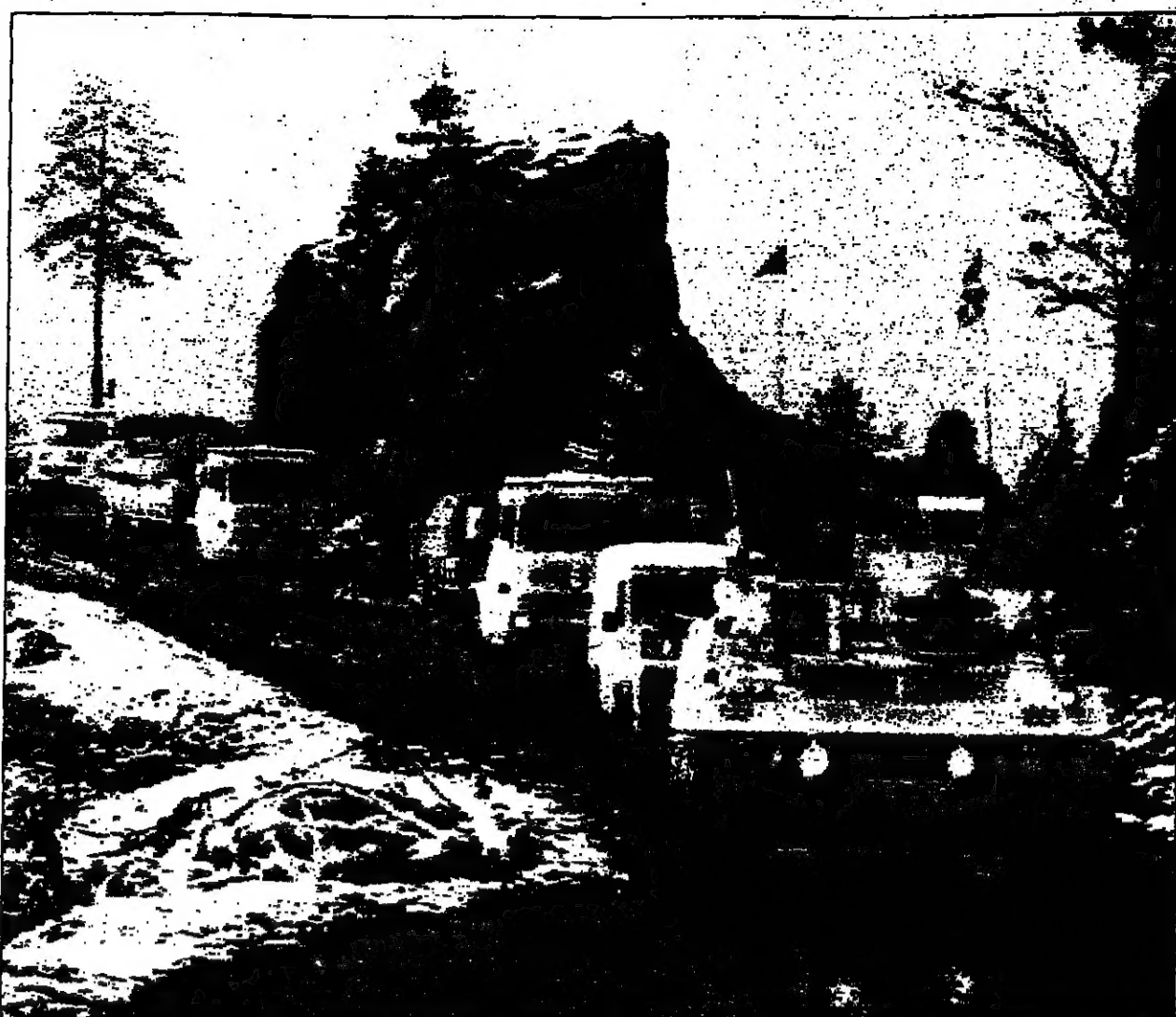
In this war zone, British soldiers are expected to keep to the rules of engagement set out by the United Nations and approved by London. They have the right to open fire if fired on, to protect themselves and those under their charge.

These rules of engagement have no logic here. Soldiers cannot retaliate if attacked by a Serb gun position over a mile away. If a British infantryman on the road between Tuzla and Kladanj is attacked from the wooded hills, he can do nothing. As the ambush men miles from Kladanj on Thursday night proved,

there is only one rule, immediate disengagement. To put it another way - drive like hell until clear.

Under the rules of engagement, before British soldiers retaliate, the target must be properly identified. London has made clear that soldiers may not fire "in the general direction" of the attackers. The Serbs are taking advantage of these restrictions. Eventually the British troops may have to cross Serb lines to deliver aid via the main road, once the safer tracks through the mountains become impassable. At that stage, the UN rules may become more pertinent, since soldiers will have to pass through Serb checkpoints.

At present, the only contact with Serb fighters is mortar fire from the darkness or shell fire from a dozen miles away. British troops have fired back only once, when a reconnaissance party ran into heavy gunfire near Rebenica. On Thursday night, there was no return of fire because it was impossible to tell who was targeting the convoy.



Relief column: British soldiers in a Sultan armoured vehicle escort United Nations food aid to Tuzla in Bosnia

Yeltsin gets backing of parliament

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S conservative parliament, which had been threatened by President Yeltsin with dissolution if it continued to thwart his reform plans, yesterday extended a sudden olive branch, saying that it was ready to co-operate with the government at the Congress of People's Deputies a week on Monday.

A statement declaring that the parliament "resolutely favoured co-operation" with the president and government and promising to back the reform package was passed with only eight votes against it. Earlier this week President Yeltsin had pledged to "defend the people's will", even if that meant disbanding the parliament and introducing direct presidential rule.

Hitler paintings go under the hammer after Florence rebuff

By JOHN PHILLIPS

TWENTY watercolours by Adolf Hitler were to be auctioned last night after the city of Florence, responding to feelings of outrage in Germany, backed off from a suggestion they be displayed in the Uffizi Gallery.

The stark, postcard-style views of churches and buildings in Vienna and Munich were painted by Hitler before the first world war. They were being auctioned in Trieste as a single lot by the Stadion sale rooms at the request of Imelde Siviero, the widow of the late collector Rodolfo Siviero, who got them from Martin Bormann, Hitler's personal secretary.

The bidding, if there are potential purchasers, will be presided over by Stephen Cristea, the British auctioneer, and will start at a minimum reserve price of 400

million lire (£192,000). Pierluigi Baldini, the Florence auctioneer for culture, stirred up a storm on Tuesday by saying the city, where Signora Siviero lives, wanted to display the watercolours in the Uffizi among Renaissance masters such as Botticelli, Michelangelo and Raphael.

Signor Baldini was quoted as saying the Uffizi might dedicate a room especially to works recovered from Germany by Siviero, who died nine years ago and is described by the Italian press as "a true 007 of art". Ulrich Roloff-Monin, the Berlin city alderman for culture, protested to the Florence council and said such an exhibition would be "an intolerable provocation to good taste and to all victims of fascism". Giorgio Morales, the mayor of Florence, said on

Thursday that the Uffizi definitely would not exhibit the paintings, which he described as ugly. Rosella Manno Tolu, the superintendent for archives in Florence, has persuaded the culture ministry to issue an injunction preventing the watercolours leaving the country and giving the Italian state the right to their compulsory purchase within three months, whatever the outcome of the auction. The injunction described the watercolours as "an ideal, illuminating and coherent preface to the official painting of the Third Reich".

Alberto Ronchey, minister for cultural heritage, seems unlikely to take advantage of the injunction. Signor Ronchey said the artwork is "of interest to psychiatry or criminal anthropology".

Romanian dictator's son freed on parole

Bucharest: A Romanian court yesterday decided to release Nicu Ceausescu, son of the late communist ruler, Nicolae Ceausescu, on parole because of his serious ill-health.

Nicu Ceausescu, 41, was arrested at the height of Romania's December 1989 revolution in connection with the killing by security forces of 91 people in the central city of Sibiu, where he was regional Communist party boss.

He was sentenced in 1990 to 20 years' imprisonment for mass murder and a firearms charge. The murder conviction was overturned last August, leaving him with only a five-year term for illegal gun possession. He could be released next week, if prosecutors waive their right to appeal against the ruling. (Reuters)

Pacts signed

Tirane: Albania said it had signed agreements with Turkey, a Nato member, to co-operate on defence technology and military training. It added that fighting in the former Yugoslavia risked igniting new conflicts elsewhere in the Balkans. (Reuters)

Enmity ends

Seoul: President Yeltsin of Russia has ended his South Korean visit saying that the two countries, once bitter Cold war enemies, have embarked on a new "unbreakable relationship". He also signed deals to strengthen the countries' military ties. (Reuters)

Mafia targeted

Palermo: Italy has seized Mafia assets worth 500 billion lire (£250 million) by freezing bank accounts and confiscating cars and boats. The operation's chief target was the Madonia family, said to be No 2 in the Cosa Nostra hierarchy. (AP)

Retain rethink

Jerusalem: President Mitterrand said in Israel that France should reconsider its tradition of honouring Marshal Pétain, first world war service hero, the later role in the Vichy regime's offended victims of the Nazis. (Reuters)

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مكتبة الأصل

Threat of Paris veto is final obstacle to global trade deal



Mitterrand: trapped by farmers and EC

THE breakthrough announced by European Community and American negotiators last night gives the world trade talks a more vigorous push than they have enjoyed for two years, but is only the first step in a sequence of political manoeuvring needed for a global deal.

A day and half of talks in Washington ended the paralysis which has held up work on a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) treaty since autumn 1990. The deadlock has been so long and difficult to break that the US-EC dispute over oilseeds and wheat has hidden the true scale of what is at stake. The eighth, so-called "Uruguay" round of talks to dismantle trade barriers is the first since GATT was founded after the second world war to attempt the mammoth task of shrinking farm subsidies.

The success or failure of the round, begun in the Uruguay-

Martin Fletcher in Washington and George Brock in Brussels look at the long-term political and economic implications of the trade accord reached between the United States and Europe

an port of Punta del Este in 1986, gradually came to hinge on the struggle over farm subsidies. As deadline after deadline for a settlement drifted by, the transatlantic tussle for supremacy in food export markets threatened to sink the whole endeavour. Although for a long time a GATT treaty has appeared to turn on Washington and Brussels, it ought eventually to rewrite the rules for the 108 participating states.

Three factors underscored the urgency of a GATT deal at the beginning of this autumn. The spiralling recession across the industrialised world has

focused attention on every possible way of reviving economic growth. Economists have estimated that a new GATT treaty could boost world trade by \$200 billion a year, although the gains might take a decade to be fully realised.

Secondly, the wider GATT talks became entangled in a technically separate argument between America and the EC over Europe's subsidised oilseed production, twice condemned by neutral GATT tribunals. Pushed by its impatient soybean lobby, the Bush administration announced that European white wine would be hit by punitive

tariffs on December 5. Spurred by the looming deadline, talks quickened.

But the simmering political crisis between France and its EC partners which was stirred by the prospect of a deal is by no means over. The Socialist government, almost certain to lose power in elections next March, is trapped between its mutinous farmers and its angry EC neighbours. President Mitterrand has invested more political capital in the Maastricht treaty on economic and political union than any other leader in the Community.

If France vetoes — as it effectively can — the deal negotiated in Washington or later in Geneva, the EC's crisis of identity and coherence will deepen and Maastricht's chances of coming into force shrink accordingly. But if France accepts the deal for the sake of peace among the EC Twelve, its farmers will declare

war on those in Paris who have betrayed them.

But French ministers can obstruct the deal on three occasions already written into the EC calendar for the next month. The government in Paris has already said that it will ask its National Assembly for an opinion on a deal. The inevitable hostile response may force French ministers to use their veto. EC foreign ministers meet on December 7 and may be asked to approve their negotiators' progress. Four days later EC leaders fly to Edinburgh for a summit whose agenda is already crowded with contentious items.

In Washington last night officials said they hoped resolution of the farm subsidies dispute would "pump some much needed adrenalin" into GATT's negotiating body. "With very intensive work in Geneva it is possible to meet the March 1 deadline," one

said. "But it would require a great deal of effort and a lot of luck." March 1 is the last day on which the American president can notify Congress of his intention to enter the Uruguay round agreement under his so-called "fast track authority". That authority means Congress would have either to accept the agreement in its entirety, or — extremely unlikely — reject it in its entirety. The chances of getting it through Congress would be greatly diminished if the deadline was not met.

It is now thought unlikely that a Uruguay round agreement could be completed in time for President Bush to notify Congress before he leaves office on January 20, but earlier fears that Bill Clinton, his Democratic successor, would want to renegotiate the agreement have largely disappeared. The issues still to be resolved

in Geneva have not had the prominence of the US-EC farm subsidies dispute, but several are nevertheless emotive and problematic. They involve cross-the-board agreements on tariff reductions, prying open the Japanese rice market and surrounding America's desire to protect its shipping industry. Western countries want greater safeguards against Third World "pirating" of intellectual property rights, and greater access for their service industries to places such as Japan and South Korea.

A particular concern of the British is "banana tariffication". London is fighting a rearguard action to preserve an arrangement whereby it allows preferential access to lower-quality, higher-priced bananas from former Commonwealth islands in the Caribbean that produce little else.

UK seizes on Gatt accord to rebuff European critics

Europe may have overcome the dispute with America that was blocking a world trade deal. But France and Germany are still leading attacks on Britain and its presidency of the EC

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TRUMPETING its role in getting a Gatt agreement, the British government yesterday rebuffed French and German criticism of Britain's presidency of the European Community, insisting that it was well placed to make decisive progress at the Edinburgh summit.

John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, reacted sharply to comments by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French industry and foreign trade minister, who said that he could not wait for the end of Britain's presidency. The British reaction also embraced Günter Verheugen, chairman of the German Bundesrat's European affairs committee, who said Britain's presidency was "turning out more and more to be a disaster for Europe".

Hailing the "landmark" agreement covering farm price subsidies, Mr Major invited his critics to look at what was being achieved under Britain's leadership. Next month's Edinburgh summit, he said, was likely to see the conclusion of the single market, "the most important thing that the Community has wanted for a long time".

"Here, under the British presidency after six years of negotiations, we have finally got a settlement between Europe and the United States on the Gatt round. I suggest people wait and see what the outcome is at Edinburgh before they prejudge us," the prime minister added.

Mr Hurd said France had agreed at the Birmingham summit to push for a Gatt agreement. The French government had real difficulties, but those in political difficulties "sometimes use exaggeration".

ed language". He pointed out that Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, had said at the recent Anglo-German summit that the British government was doing everything possible to ratify the Maastricht treaty and that Germany understood the realities of life in Britain and Denmark.

The bitterness of continental criticism, echoing angry comments by many members of the European parliament in Strasbourg this week, is almost unprecedented. Herr Verheugen said the British presidency was "not in any way fulfilling its leading and co-ordinating function" and that the government, for domestic political reasons, was allowing the time-bomb of Danish objections to Maastricht to go on lying around. In Herr Verheugen's view, the risks of the collapse of European political and economic union were now greater than the chances of completion.

His views are widely shared by German politicians on all sides, although ministers and

opposition leaders alike have so far been careful not to express those views in public. Bonn was particularly dismayed by the British decision to put off ratification of Maastricht until after a new referendum in Denmark.

M Strauss-Kahn said of the British presidency: "It is the most calamitous that I have seen in my time in government. They have a way of presiding over the Community which puts it at a great disadvantage with the Americans."

Mr Hurd said in a BBC radio interview that he could have wished things would have gone "better and easier and quicker, but life is like that". He said that the EC was not making progress as fast as Britain wanted, "but the progress is in the right direction".

Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgium's prime minister, has urged Mr Major to put a debate on how to reverse Europe's economic downturn on the agenda of the Edinburgh summit. The European Commission this week revised its estimate of the Community's 1993 economic growth rate to below 1 per cent, down from less than 1.2 per cent in 1992. "The increase in unemployment that several of our countries face requires special attention," he wrote.

He said the EC leaders must give clear signals to stock markets and companies to restore confidence. It was the lack of confidence that largely explained the state of EC economies. His plea echoed similar concerns by Wim Kok, the Dutch finance minister.



Dehaene: calling for economic debate

Deal agreed, page 1
Boost to shares, page 22



Scorched earth: a farmer helps to set haystacks ablaze near Lille in protest at the prospect of a trade accord between America and the EC. French farm unions condemned the Gatt deal agreed yesterday, saying it would lead to further cuts in European agricultural production

French farmers vow to fight on

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRENCH farmers' unions denounced the trade deal between the European Community and the United States yesterday, saying it would force even greater cuts in farm production than those already imposed by the EC.

A spokesman for the CNJA young farmers' union, one of France's largest farm groups, said: "This is war. There will be demonstrations as early as tomorrow." He added: "The agreement greatly exceeds the limits of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. We do not accept the principles of the accord."

A small group of farmers burned hay and tyres outside government offices in the northern port of Calais early yesterday in a forerunner of likely action. Philippe Arnaud, general secretary of the radical Rural Co-ordination farmers' movement, accused Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, of betraying French agriculture and "sacrificing us on the American altar".

Philippe Tillous-Borde, director-general of the French oilseed producers' association, said the deal exceeded constraints agreed last May in the reform of EC agriculture policy. However, he recognised that restricting the area cultivated for oilseeds, from which vegetable oil is made, was better than limiting output, as discussed in earlier trade talks. Estimates circulated by the French government this week said the 21 per cent cut agreed in subsidised EC cereals exports would mean taking a quarter of all European farm land out of production instead of the 15 per cent agreed last May. France had said it would oppose any Gatt deal that exceeded the limits of EC farm policy reform and this week said it might demand a renegotiation of the reforms if its partners accepted such an accord.

Major's woes bring crocodile tears to European eyes

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

AS OTHERS SEE US

A weekly look at how the world views Britain

WERE it not for the Princess of Wales, a reader would have been hard-pressed to find a word in favour of anything British in the European press this week as John Major has been depicted as stumbling down the road to disaster, dragging his hapless country behind him.

"Lady Di" swept the usual memories of the Hundred Years War aside, charming not just the tabloids but the serious French media with her "triumphant" weekend in Paris. "Paris crowned Lady Di. The smiles and suits of the princess conquered her hosts," said the conservative *Figaro*, normally no great friend of Britain. The satirical *Canard Enchaîné* awarded its weekly prize for innuendo to the report of the princess's visit by *Libération*, the centre-left daily. This threw Gallic rigour to the winds and waxed ecstatic on her "long, Bluebell Girl's legs", describing her as "nervous like a little bird" who "flashed the brave little graces of a punished child".

Otherwise, the European press has presented grim tales of Britain's collapsing economy, the Matrix Churchill affair and Mr Major's gymnastics over Maastricht. "Perhaps we must soon reckon without John Major?" mused Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* yesterday in a look at the threats to the prime minister from his own party. "The growing argument over the question of whether the British government violated the arms embargo against Iraq ... could prove even more dangerous than the fall of the pound, the coalmines crisis and the Maastricht issue."

Britain also came in for ironic and bitter comment from German newspapers over the refusal to take in Bosnian refugees from the Slovene-Austrian border. "Has [Kenneth Clarke, the

home secretary] not seen the pictures showing the misery of those people camped in old buses?" asked *Die Welt*.

For France, the chance to twist the knife in Britain's wounds has been too much to resist in a week which saw Albion appearing even more perfunctory than usual, seemingly ganging up with the United States in an "Anglo-Saxon cabal" over the world trade talks. Earlier in the week commentators concurred that, were it not for a scurrilous British campaign, the rest of Europe would accept the need to protect the endangered French peasant farmer.

A tone delicately balanced between sorrow and gloating has coloured reports on



Whitehall's endless crises. "Panic in Downing Street," said the headline in *L'Humanité*, the Communist party daily, over a report on the Iraqi arms affair.

Pondering on Britain's supposed humiliation and Mr Major's immense task of restoring confidence, *Le Monde*, the bible of France's ruling classes, said the prime minister seemed to be staking his career on a "game of double or nothing" with the

British economy. Britain, it said, was facing a recession far worse than in any other European country and "the end of the tunnel seems still far away". Britons were far less concerned about Europe than about interest rates. *Le Monde* explained, largely because they had become "obsessed" with home ownership in the 1980s. Mr Major was finding it particularly hard to restore confidence because of the extent of mortgage indebtedness, the paper said.

L'Express, the conservative weekly, talked of the general "catastrophe" now facing any British leader, be he Mr Major or a successor. "One piece of bad news follows another and the scandals keep coming," it said. Only a year ago, it remembered, Mr Major was bounding out of the Maastricht summit crying "game, set and match" for Britain.

While much of the European media turned against France earlier this week over its intransigent attitude towards the world trade talks, there was still much space for acid commentary on Britain's handling of the presidency of the European Community. In Spain, where anti-British feeling is running high over what is seen as Mr Major's sabotage of the Maastricht treaty, the left-wing *El País* said London's "inane handling of the Community presidency is principally responsible for the present paralysis".

In a typical French comment, *L'Express* said next month's EC summit in Edinburgh risked turning into a disaster all round, thanks to Mr Major's incompetence. French ministers have been expressing the same neighbourly sentiments on TV and in the press.

Threat of trade war is lifted

Continued from page 1
ports of oilseeds. US officials had been insisting that the EC bind itself to limits on tonnages of rapeseed, sunflowers and soya to be produced in Europe, but the final agreement restricts production only by stipulating how much land must be taken out of use. The EC paid for that concession by agreeing a bigger cut in overall subsidised exports.

The settlement has now to be approved by EC governments and, although no formal approval is required until an entire Gatt treaty has been agreed, the accord will be raised at the foreign ministers' meeting and the Edinburgh summit next month.

Mr Major brushed aside suggestions that France — whose farmers are threatening to stage demonstrations against the accord today — might yet scupper a final agreement and said that if they continued to object they would be outvoted. "At the end of the day, the EC will decide this on a qualified majority voting." Although EC rules allow ministers to make trade policy by majority vote, there have been suggestions that France would invoke the obscure "Luxembourg compromise" which grants individual states a veto when its "vital interests" are threatened. But Mr Andriessen made clear that the deal would be blocked.

While the farm subsidies issue has been the main stumbling block to an overall deal to give £100 billion a year boost to the world economy, negotiators have still to reach agreements on such disparate matters as rice, bananas, shipping, copyright and service industries. These need to be reached before March 1, when the American president's negotiating authority expires. The final deal is likely to come into force on January 1, 1994.

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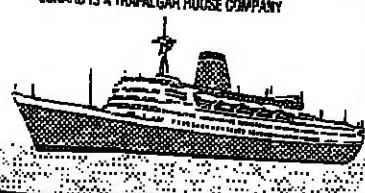
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Iraqi economy in disarray as the UN sanctions bite

A run on luxury goods has forced Saddam to delay an imports ban. Now Iraq's anti-sanctions offensive at the UN is in danger

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

IRAQ has been plunged into its most serious economic disarray since sanctions were imposed two years ago, with differences over policy emerging inside the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

Travellers from Baghdad and Western intelligence sources claim that the United Nations sanctions are beginning to bite at the very moment when Iraq plans to launch a diplomatic drive at the UN on Monday to have them lifted.

At only 24 hours' notice, the deadline for a blanket ban due to have come into effect yesterday on the sale of 146 luxury

items, ranging from cheese and perfume to videos and personal computers, was postponed after chaotic scenes in Baghdad's shops.

Before the deadline extension until December 10 ordered by Saddam, traders had been told to clear their shelves of luxury imports or face penalties for economic sabotage, including possible execution. Clothing and other items on the list published in August were selling at knock-down prices. The deadline was part of an austerity package to rescue the Iraqi dinar, now fetching 30 to the American dollar on the black market,

against the official rate of 3.2. The measures were designed to save foreign currency to buy staple foodstuffs.

Earlier this week Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the trade minister, vowed in a speech to parliament: "There will be no extension of the deadline." Saddam's rescinding order was issued the day after *Babel*, a paper owned by his son Uday, who has made millions of dollars from his monopoly over the sale of certain goods, including chickens, criticised the ban on luxury items.

The negative aspect of the measure will leave a disastrous impact not only on the citizens, but also on the national economy, an unsigned article written by what the paper described as an "Iraqi economist with long-standing financial expertise" said. The writer is assumed by observers to be Uday himself, and it is a rare challenge to official policy in the censored media. The article claimed the order to clear foreign goods in a specified period was "contrary to economic logic" and described the measure as "not more than an arbitrary action directed against the citizens and traders".

Iraqis arriving in Amman on the main land route from Baghdad, still cut off from all outside air links, said the ban was causing discontent among the middle classes and the trading mafia which has grown up since sanctions were imposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Western embassies in Amman believe the attempted ban resulted from poor economic advice given to the president, who has been fighting a running battle to prevent popular discontent.

"Like the execution of 42 merchants for alleged profiteering this summer, the ban on luxuries was threatening to further empty the shops and stoke up middle-class anger," one Western diplomat said.

The sudden switch is a sign of internal disagreements about how to cope with the economic crisis caused by sanctions as winter approaches.

The approach of the deadline has prompted a sharp jump in the number of Iraqis arriving at foreign embassies in Jordan seeking visas abroad. It has been accompanied by new Iraqi restrictions forbidding citizens to make more than two journeys abroad a year. The provision of luxury items, such as Scotch and American cigarettes, has been one way in which Saddam has retained loyalty among the security forces and the elite of the country's ruling Baath party.



Uday Hussein: rare challenge to Saddam



Open-door policy: Barbara Bush escorts Hillary Clinton, wife of the US president-elect, into the White House during the Clintons' first trip to Washington since the Democrat's election victory. Mrs Bush, just back from house-hunting in Houston, where they will move after the inauguration in January, showed Mrs Clinton round the private quarters of the 200-year-old presidential mansion. Millie the dog tagged along a few steps behind.

Egyptians step up tourist security

BY MICHAEL BRYNOR
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Egypt yesterday promised a huge increase in security in tourist areas, but claimed the country was still one of the safest places to visit.

Fouad Sultan, the minister of tourism, blamed recent attacks on tourists on terrorists who had failed to achieve their ends by political means and who were, he said, supported by governments envious of Egypt's tourist earnings, especially Iran. He said the threat came not from fundamentalists - senior Islamic scholars have decreed that tourism was not incompatible with Islam - but from former communists dressing their ideology in the clothes of Islam.

While in London for a meeting of the World Tourist Organisation, Mr Sultan attempted to reassure British tourists and admitted that Egypt's tourist industry faced a grave threat. In every 15 jobs depended on tourism; last year Egypt attracted 3 million visitors, and earned about £2 billion from the industry.

He denounced "substantial over-reporting" of terrorist threats against tourists, but acknowledged that Egypt was held hostage by enemies trying to strike at its vital interests. He said armed security guards were now protecting all tourist sites. Only nine incidents had occurred this year, resulting in one death and 13 injuries, but he said there would be no repetition. Ordinary Egyptians were so dependent on tourism that they had helped catch those responsible and would protect tourists.

Mr Sultan said Foreign Office warnings not to visit remote areas were unnecessary. "Come and see how safe they are. You can stroll around day and night."

He refused to link the incidents with Islamic fundamentalists, saying hardly anyone in Egypt had heard of Shaikh Omar Abdul-Rahman, the Shaikh in America described as the country's Ayatollah Khomeini. He said that every country now suffered from terrorism: the phenomenon was alien to Egypt, and followed failed attempts by extremists to provoke clashes between Christians and Muslims.

Pharaoh's story, page 14



Hong Kong investors warned by Peking

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON
IN PEKING

PEKING yesterday accused Chris Patten, the Hong Kong governor, of creating "disaster and chaos" in Hong Kong, and warned foreign investors that they should not support his proposals for democracy if they wanted to continue to make money in the colony.

Under the front-page headline "Playing the International Card Will Not Help Patten", the Communist party *People's Daily*, in the latest of a week of attacks, said: "Foreign countries who support Patten's proposals are helping to wreck chaos and disaster on the people of Hong Kong."

Creating chaos will not only bring calamity to the people of Hong Kong, but will harm the interests of investors of every nationality.

The American, Canadian and Australian governments have already stated their support for Mr Patten's proposals, and a similar endorsement is expected from Japan. The article said that Hong Kong was an issue only for Britain and China, and that the rest of the world should keep out of it. Western governments "who shout the slogan of human rights so loudly" should think of the consequences.

Mr Patten last month announced plans to further democratise the 1995 elections prior to the colony's handover to Chinese rule in 1997. Peking has reacted with personal insults, warnings of sanctions, and veiled threats that China may abandon the joint declaration, which protects Hong Kong's way of life for 50 years after 1997.

In a separate article, the paper also published Thursday's criticism by a senior Chinese official in Hong Kong of the colony's decision to begin work on its new airport. The official said Peking could not agree to any action taken without China's approval.

Police force Bhutto to call off march

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN yesterday mounted a huge security operation in North West Frontier Province to keep out Benazir Bhutto, the opposition leader. In a continuing mockery of the country's fragile democracy, the government sealed off roads and ordered police to keep watch at the airport to ensure that the former prime minister did not slip through.

At Bilawal House, her fortress-like home in Karachi, Miss Bhutto announced that she was calling off plans to lead a march today in Peshawar, capital of the frontier region. She blamed the security clampdown for her decision. She has decided to focus instead on Punjab, the most populous, prosperous and politically important of the four provinces and also the home state of Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, the target of her campaign.

Asghar Khan, spokesman of the People's Democratic Alliance opposition grouping, said Miss Bhutto would defy her banning from Punjab and travel on the Islamabad-bound train from Karachi on Monday. To avoid arrest she would leave the train before it reached the capital.

Her aim is to keep the country in political turmoil and, it seems, to court arrest for its propaganda value. According to one theory, she has received a signal from the



army that it would not object to Mr Sharif being forced out of office. Such rumours are the stuff of Pakistani politics.

She may also be raising her profile lest a court investigating her period in office decides to ban her from contesting future elections on the ground of her being unfit for public office. Such a ruling is a distinct possibility.

It remains to be seen if she can still marshal a mass movement, having lost much of her magic during her two chaotic years in power. Despite her allegations of electoral fraud, international observers say that she was fairly beaten in the general election held two years ago.

Diary, page 14

Redundant spies tout for business

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

LIFE has taken a strange turn for the former chiefs of the KGB. In the past few years they have seen their power crumble, their coup go awry and their dreams of a government dacha disintegrate.

But now the men who ran the former Soviet Union's intelligence network have submitted to the ultimate indignity - they have begun looking for work with the very people they once spied on. Gerard Burke, a former assistant director of the US National Security Agency, who now runs a small security consultancy near Washington, told *The Washington Post* that he had recently been approached by curriculum vitae and letters from former Soviet spymasters and intelligence agents.

The KGB formerly employed 250,000 people. With the collapse of communism, however, thousands of former secret police and intelligence officials have found themselves thrown on to the job market. They have naturally gravitated towards the field of security and corporate intelligence.

One of those with whom Mr Burke is now considering a joint venture is Yuri Drozdov, 68, a former KGB major general and the man who once ran the Soviet Union's vast network of foreign operatives. With two

other former KGB agents, Mr Drozdov now owns Namskon, a business consultancy in Moscow. "People who have experience working in the West, understanding market economies and market enterprises, have an easier time getting involved in business," he recently told the *Washington Times*.

Mr Drozdov was a spy-master of Rudolf Abel, the Soviet agent who obtained many of America's atomic secrets in the 1950s. Now Mr Drozdov is offering to help foreign businesses find a path through Russian bureaucracy. Mr Burke's firm, whose advisory board is led by Richard Helms, the former director of the CIA, specialises in protecting American companies against industrial espionage, and he says he is considering doing a deal with his erstwhile adversary.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Timor rebel leader caught

Dili: Indonesian soldiers in East Timor have captured José Alexandre Gusmão, a pro-independence rebel leader in the former Portuguese colony.

Mr Gusmão, 45, was seized while asleep in a house at Lahane, a suburb of East Timor's capital of Dili. He led a pro-independence demonstration against the Indonesian government in November 1991 that left at least 100 people dead after troops fired on marchers.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976 after intervening in a civil war there between Fretilin and other pro-independence groups. President Soares of Portugal called for an international campaign for Mr Gusmão's release. (AP)

Help sought

Johannesburg: Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, head of a commission of enquiry into violence and intimidation in South Africa, met with President de Klerk. He requested additional resources and authority to carry out his investigations.

Guards refused

Luanda: A request for armed United Nations soldiers to guarantee the safety of rebel Unita leaders from attack by the Angolan government was rejected by Margaret Anstee, the UN special envoy, who is expected to fly to the Unita base at Huambo today.

Goodbye sailor

Olongapo: Huge crowds turned out in this Philippines port to say farewell to the US navy, which leaves its base at Subic Bay next week, ending 100 years of American military presence. (AP)

Thousands flee

Dhaka: Tens of thousands of people on offshore islands and coastal villages abandoned their homes as Bangladesh braced for a severe cyclonic storm, with winds of up to 130mph, that was expected to hit the southern coast this morning.

Caste protest

Delhi: A student set himself on fire and police tear-gassed protesters in Delhi in renewed protests over plans to reserve more jobs for low-caste Hindus. A student boycott forced schools and colleges in the state to close for a few days. (Reuters)

Plotter freed

Rabat: Morocco has released Sergeant Ghani Achour, the last military prisoner jailed for taking part in the abortive coup against King Hassan in July 1971 in which 98 people were shot dead at his seaside palace. Sgt Achour was serving a life sentence. (Reuters)

Pest kangaroos

Canberra: Wildlife experts are seeking a solution to the 120 kangaroos that have overrun the grounds of the official residence of Bill Hayden, Australia's governor-general. Shooting and sterilisation have been proposed. (Reuters)

Feminist slogans recruit women to Shining Path's war

Pilar Cotch has no scruples. She claims to have killed many times and says she is prepared to die for the Shining Path who have been fighting a guerrilla war for more than a decade to install a Maoist regime in Peru.

There is no expression on her face as she raises her fist and shouts dogmatic rhetoric from inside a dark, humid prison cell in the central Andean town of Ayacucho, where dozens of captured women guerrillas are held. The town is where the Shining Path launched its armed struggle in 1980 and where it centred its campaign of violence that has led to clashes with the security forces, claiming the lives of at least 25,000 people.

Pilar, 28, is one of hundreds of captured women cadres belonging to the Shining Path movement, held in detention centres across Peru. She was seized this year when President Fujimori ordered an all-out war on the guerrillas.

After the Shining Path leader's arrest, women are running the guerrilla campaign, writes Gabriella Gamini in Lima

There are hundreds of others continuing the violent struggle, she says. At least half of the guerrillas making up Shining Path are women. It is believed that three women now head the movement since the capture of Abimael Guzmán, the Shining Path's ideological leader and founder, who was detained in September after military intelligence traced him to a middle-class suburb in the capital, Lima. "When

Guzmán was captured he was found with three women who stood by his side and claimed to be his closest comrades. They belonged to the central committee of the Shining Path - from that day it was proved that women take a leading role in the movement," Rosa Malivia, a sociologist, said.

Among those captured was Martha Huatay, who was said to have planned the bombing and terror campaign which has shaken the capital since June. Now that the so-called supreme leader, often named "President Gonzalo", has

been jailed, analysts say he has left Teresa Durand, Margie Clavo and Emma Savedra to continue the ideological leadership of the armed struggle. "These women who are at the top are all from middle-class educated backgrounds, former teachers and lecturers at university who took to the Shining Path because it was the only movement which embraced feminism," Señora Malivia said.

Most of the women who lead the political wing of Shining Path joined the armed struggle in its early days, but women are not only in the Shining Path leader-

ship. Hundreds of women from poorer rural areas are active, often used in assassination squads.

For Pilar Cotch opting for the Shining Path was an obvious choice. "I went to school and wanted something from life. But like many other women who live in provincial towns, I felt that there was nothing for me this government could offer." Although the rhetoric of Abimael Guzmán, whose main inspiration is the Chinese cultural revolution, focused on women and won the following of hundreds, it also demands a harsh regime. Marriage is only allowed within the movement, and only to guerrillas of the same rank. Having children is out of the question and if they already exist they have to be

handed over to rural women and brought up on farms. Lower-ranking women cadres are also said to have to provide a sexual service every 45 days to the male head of the guerrilla squadrons.

"Guzmán's feminism is totally contradictory, it wants to turn women into men. It talks of women's rights, but it also uses women," Señora Malivia says. "The problem is that desperate poverty leads many women really to believe that their war will change things for them."

While hundreds of guerrillas such as Pilar have been captured and President Fujimori has vowed to crush the Shining Path by 1995, the terror campaign has been stepped up to disrupt tomorrow's elections which Señor Fujimori called to install a new congress.

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مكتبة الأصل

On the 70th anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's burial place, Daniel Johnson reviews the cult surrounding it

Hype of the mummy's tomb

From the moment that *The Times* broke the news of his tomb's discovery in the Valley of the Kings on November 30, 1922, Tutankhamun was not only the most famous of the pharaohs, but the central figure in a wave of popular mythology surrounding the royal mummy and the ancient curse which supposedly punished those who disturbed it. An esoteric literary tradition going back to Edgar Allan Poe was transformed by Tutankhamun into the cult which gave us Boris Karloff's mummy movies and Egyptian art deco cinemas. His reign over the imagination of the 20th century has already lasted far longer than the 18 years of the pharaoh's life on Earth.

It was indeed the most sublime moment in the history of Egyptology when, 70 years ago this week, Howard Carter looked into the antechamber of the tomb and, in answer to his patron the Earl of Carnarvon's excited query ("Can you see anything?"), replied: "Yes, wonderful things." In January 1923 the earl, who wished to recoup the cost of this private

enterprise, had signed an exclusive agreement with *The Times*, giving it a degree of control over news of progress in the excavation which not only infuriated rival newspapers but also the Egyptian government. The contract, printed in T.G.H. James's judicious new biography *Howard Carter: The Path to Tutankhamun* (Kegan Paul International), meant that Carnarvon had sold for £5,000 rights which the Egyptians did not think belonged to him.

Within six months of the discovery, Carnarvon was dead of a septic mosquito bite. Stories about a curse, originally encouraged by the archaeologists as a way of frightening off potential intruders, were taken up by journalists starved of scoops and given credence by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He was interviewed just after Carnarvon's death and warned: "An evil elemental may have caused Lord

Carnarvon's fatal illness. One does not know what elementals existed in those days, nor what their form might be. The Egyptians knew a great deal more about these things than we do."

Sir Arthur's words precipitated panic among collectors of Egyptian antiquities. Arthur Weigall, an Egyptologist turned *Daily Mail* correspondent, wrote darkly of "the malevolence of ancient Egyptian spirits". The *Mail* printed a wholly implausible — story about a mosquito "which may have previously settled on embalming fluids found buried with Tutankhamun". The *Daily Express* reported that, at the moment of Carnarvon's death, the lights in Cairo Hospital suddenly went out. "This curious occurrence was interpreted by those anxiously awaiting news as an omen of evil." Even the reported death of the earl's terror bitch Susie, thousands of miles away at

his estate of Highclere, was linked to the curse. Later Velma, a society palmist and seer, claimed to have warned Carnarvon of a curse before his death. And so the tales were spun on.

The curse was, of course, entirely bogus. A study by the Metropolitan Museum of Art has proved that those involved lived to an above-average age for the period. Carter himself later wrote: "There was probably no place in the world freer from risks than the Tomb. Scientific research had proved it to be sterile... So far as the living are concerned, curses of this nature have no part in the Egyptian Ritual."

Though Carter lived until 1939, his close colleague Arthur Mace (who actually wrote the most famous account of the opening of the tomb) died in 1928. "In a sense Tutankhamun did kill Mace, but it

was not the curse of the boy King, it was the sheer amount of work involved in clearing the tomb in what were difficult and stressful circumstances," writes Mace's biographer, Christopher C. Lee, in *...the grand piano came by camel: Arthur C. Mace, the neglected Egyptologist* (Mainstream).

Like all great myths, the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun has been repeatedly debunked. Howard Carter, who rightly took the lion's share of the credit for the find but was snubbed by most Egyptologists, has been accused of being little better than a grave-rover. His collaborators, overshadowed at the time, have no less rightly been allowed some posthumous glory.

Tutmania is still with us. The first Tutankhamun show, held at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley in 1924, featured a mock tomb. Carter slapped a writ on the

organisers (who were advised by his *Daily Mail* rival Weigall) for breach of copyright, but the tomb was very successful. More recently there was, among others, the great British Museum exhibition of 1972. This week, the museum unveiled a new exhibition, *Howard Carter: Before Tutankhamun*, a paperback volume with the same title, written by Nicholas Reeves and John H. Taylor, accompanies the show, published by British Museum Press.

Christopher Frayling attempts to explain the Tut phenomenon in his useful new book *The Face of Tutankhamun*, published by Faber on Monday to coincide with the BBC-2 series of the same name. He quotes Peter Green to the effect that what impresses us is the "static self-assurance" of the ancient Egyptians: "Nothing, in the last resort, not even gold is as insidious as unshakable belief."

New works of popular Egyptology, such as Nicolas Grimal's *A History of Ancient Egypt* (Blackwell) and Eugen Strouhal's *Life in Ancient Egypt* (Cambridge), stress the fact that the true significance of Howard Carter's discovery was only appreciated much later. Indeed, the most profound effect of this unique evocation of the most distant part of human history may be upon those who consider themselves the descendants of pharaonic Egypt.

One scarcely disinterested witness quoted by Christopher Frayling, the Arabist Edward Said, sees the evolution of Egyptology from Champollion to Carter as a by-product of European imperialism, and asks why the West is more interested in the Egypt of Tutankhamun than that of Nasser and Mubarak.

Egyptians are sensitive and sometimes resentful about these polytheist ancestors, with whom they feel a mystic affinity, but whom Islamic orthodoxy forbids them to revere. If there was a curse, it has fallen upon Egypt rather than the archaeologists.

Making waves in broadcasting

Chris Hopson on reforms the BBC must implement to avoid more radical change

How can the BBC continue to justify imposing a licence fee of £80 on every colour television owner? Peter Brooke is under pressure to consider radical alternatives to the BBC. Within the department of national heritage the debate on next week's green paper centres around an arts council of the airwaves, an idea which already has support among the prime minister's policy advisers. It is a very tempting option, but one the government should resist.

What would an arts council of the airwaves do? It would receive the licence fee and allow all broadcasters — not just the BBC — to bid for funds to make programmes which meet public service objectives. It would create an internal market and split programme purchasers from providers.

But it is also a Trojan horse for many who are out-right opponents of the BBC. It would mean the death of the BBC by a thousand cuts as the licence fee was spread across a wide range of programme makers, many of whom would have access to advertising revenue. Some believe the BBC is a cultural dictator — but an arts council of the airwaves would be far worse.

Programme makers would try to second guess the opinions of the council's members in their bid for funds while those 12 political appointees selected from the "great and the good" would decide what was good and bad public service programming. They would be in a position to lay down detailed objectives, programme by programme or series by series. The BBC, quite rightly, places such decisions in the hands of its producers.

However, if the BBC is to justify the licence fee, it needs to demonstrate that it can adapt to the new competitive broadcasting market. Above all, the BBC needs to slim down its bloated management structure. It must also carry through the producer choice initiative which creates an internal market by forcing BBC departments to compete with independent companies in selling their services to BBC producers. It should also establish targets for cost effectiveness that can be indepen-

dently audited. Adopting these measures will produce the same pressures for efficiency as an arts council of the airwaves but will not endanger programming quality and diversity or editorial independence.

The BBC's programming objectives should be changed so that it offers distinctive and original programmes, not pale imitations of those offered by its competitors — there can be little justification for *Eldorado* or *Neighbours* remaining in future BBC schedules. This does not mean, however, that the BBC should aim only at minority audiences: the success of *EastEnders* demonstrates that it is possible to make popular programmes that meet public service broadcasting objectives.

The BBC should not broadcast in areas that are already well served by the market and do not meet public service broadcasting objectives. Areas to withdraw from include Radios 1 and 2 and those local radio stations whose output does not differ sufficiently from commercial rivals. The BBC should also make better use of its archive material by handing over BBC Enterprises to a private operator in return for a share of the profits.

There are a number of other reforms that are needed to improve accountability to viewers and listeners. The BBC has already promised to put new mechanisms into place which build on best practice in the public and private sectors. The confusion surrounding the government's role needs to be ended: they cannot continue to act as the board of management while retaining responsibility for regulation. John Birt and Marmaduke Hussey have already indicated that they will undertake a programme of reform broadly along these lines. The government should renew the BBC's charter for ten years, set clear targets to achieve and assess whether they have been met in ten years' time.

The author was special adviser to David Mellor at the department of national heritage. His paper, *Reforming the BBC*, will be published by the European Policy Forum on Monday.

To justify its licence fee, the BBC must slim down its bloated management structure

Patten's appalling joke

The ranking of schools by exams results is pernicious and unfair. All it tells us is where the middle class live

"Come in Patten. Sit down." The use of his surname was unusual. Patten could tell the prime minister was tense. He feared the worst. "You know what it's about. You'll have seen the league tables. I'm awfully sorry."

Since November 1992 the prime minister had taken a grip on the "grey" image of his team. Each year the cabinet minister with the lowest poll rating had to resign, no matter what. John Major had found this a painless way to reshuffle.

Patten's gorge tightened. "But prime minister, it's absurd. The system is unfair. The figures aren't even correct. 'I know, I know,' said Major. 'We've been over all that. I'm sure we'll get a better system

SIMON JENKINS

next year. But ratings are facts. You've always loved facts, John. It's better than leaving it to the whims." Patten choked. "But it's all public relations... it's all to do with content..." John Major moved a small lever installed by his predecessor. Patten abruptly disappeared. A gurgle was heard from far down below. Sir Robin Butler put his head round the door. "Mistah Kurtz, he dead!" he said with a chuckle.

I can see no point at all in the bizarre school league tables published last Thursday. The listing of the "best and worst" schools in England was so grotesque I wondered if it was meant as a coded lesson in unfairness. Was John Major sending the schools a message, that his new Britain is for the rich and the clever, and the sooner we all know it the better? If so I can only puzzle over the enormity of it all. This is tabloid government with a vengeance.

The Victorian philanthropist, Charles Booth, once published a table showing the distribution of butlers per head of the London population. It was full of interest. Hampstead beat Kensington and Westminster, largely because it had fewer news properties and thus fewer working class to distort its ratio. Last week's tables from the education department are about as useful. They tell us where middle-class people live. They tell us that selective schools get better exam results. They tell us nothing about how good any one school is at teaching its pupils, though by grading schools they imply just that. It would have been fairer to omit schools altogether and publish exam results by postal district.

The tables were statistically aberrant. They omitted so many children and so many schools as to be quite unreliable. They excluded children who sit their exams before 15 or 17 or who take A levels outside the school. Richmond with



its excellent sixth form centres was made to seem the dumbest town in England. The figures omitted three quarters of independent schools: Winchester, not Eton or Westminster. They disregarded whether a school is choosing only bright children from primary schools. The government casually admitted that it has yet to perfect its system. Why then rush out such incomplete figures? If statistics were a real

profession — rather than a branch of politics — somebody at the education department would have been "struck off" by now.

Educationalists can roughly predict the exam results of secondary schools by examining the community they serve. Cheshire and Surrey are prosperous and yield good results. Brent and Tower Hamlets are not. Selective schools score higher than non-selective, indepen-

dent higher than state. Redbridge's 11-plus yields two council schools scoring above 92 per cent; the rest are below 50 per cent. There are no surprises here, though a ghastly fascination in seeing how badly the "other school" has fared.

The education secretary, John Patten, says parents should make allowances for all this. Why did he not do so in his tables? By giving them the glare of national publicity

he was discounting any allowance. The imprimatur of central government is now stamped on exam passes as the sole criterion, not just a criterion, of teacher and school performance. Mr Patten says next year his figures may include other criteria, though it is hard to see how something so essentially local as school context can be tabulated nationally. He could more fairly have updated Booth and given us the distribution of nannies. (I imagine this would correspond exactly to his tables.)

Of course school performance should be more open. Of course parents deserve more information. But the lesson of last week is that Whitehall should keep right away from this. Councils should be required to publish all they know about their schools, putting exam results in their local context. What a parent wants to know is how good a school is at educating a given child or ability group, how good at a particular subject, how good at preparing for further education. Camden council has published such "value added" tables for its schools: they seem reasonably fair. If a local council had engaged in such a beta minus operation as these tables, Mr Patten would have said it was not fit to run anything, let alone a school. Yet Mr Patten's new education bill is giving his department powers to run every school in the country. He is the last of the great nationalisers.

The education bill seeks to fragment the school system of England and remove it from local administration. Schools are to be like prisons, defence establishments and (until recently) hospitals, under Whitehall regulation and administration. Heaven help them. In addition, the way this is being organised through "opting out" will widen the social and educational divergence between schools. Public money will inevitably flow towards those that do best in league tables. Nor will local councils be able to levy higher rates to help the "sink" schools that are left behind. Public education was meant to counteract rather than reinforce social disadvantage.

The smug world of education has long had a shock like this coming to it. I suppose shocks help debate. But the past week suggests sanity is losing this debate. The league table was a huge £1.4m pat on the back to schools that have an easy job already, stigmatising and demoralising those that have a hard one.

Life may be a struggle against unfairness. But for government to make that struggle worse, and so gratuitously, is callous. Conrad ruminates in *Lord Jim* that most people's idealism had "never undergone the trial of a fiendish and appalling joke". That can no longer be said of British education.

A hard sales pitch

COME to sunny Pakistan. See the colourful street life of Islamabad where happy demonstrators dance and sing. Witness the drama and excitement of the special tribunals. Imran Khan has clearly got his work cut out: the former Pakistan test captain has just been appointed "honorary roving ambassador for tourism" by the prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Supporters of Benazir Bhutto will be forgiven for seeing Imran's appointment as a cynical attempt by the government to rescue the country's image, badly tarnished after the bouncers bowled by the security forces against demonstrators this week. For the government it is a clever PR coup. They have also just awarded Imran Pakistan's top civil award, the Hilal-e-Imtiaz. Imran's brief, according to friends, is a roving one, selling Pakistan on his many travels around the world. He arrives in Britain next week to raise funds for his hospital project in Lahore. To date he has raised more than £5 million for the hospital, which is due to open next year. He will surely find it easier convincing the British public to caught up for his clinic than to persuade it to

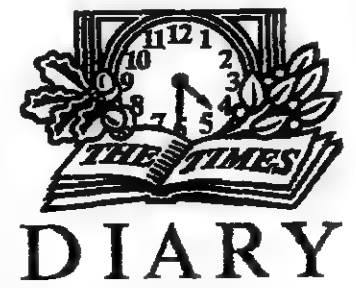
abandon Lanzarote for Lahore. The Foreign Office is advising tourists that there is a problem with kidnapping and armed robbery in rural areas and travel by road in the south of Pakistan "requires armed police escort".

● The Tory MP John Carlisle may be neutral in today's rugby international between Wales and Australia but he was clearly partisan in last weekend's England versus South Africa game. "It was a pity we lost wasn't it?", he told colleagues this week. Not for nothing is his nickname at Westminster the member for Pretoria North.

Last picture show

AFTER more than two decades as one of the world's leading actresses the lights will go out for the last time on Glenda Jackson's film career tomorrow. Jackson, who vowed to give up acting when she became the MP for Hampstead and Highgate, will be seen opposite Ken Russell who directed her in *Women in Love*, for which she won an Oscar.

Jackson plays the part of the ageing lover of the composer Sir Ar-



nold Bax in the film *The Secret Life of Sir Arnold Bax*, which will be shown on *The South Bank Show* presented by Melvyn Bragg, one of the Labour MP's most loyal constituents.

The MP expresses few regrets about the demise of her acting career, insisting she is utterly "un-sentimental". She says: "Acting is something that only has any kind of validity when you are doing it. Like a majority of actors my early experience was unemployment rather than employment."

In the film Jackson is abandoned by Russell for a younger mistress, played by Hetty Baynes who in real life met Russell on the set and married him six months later. She is now expecting his eighth child. "Any opportunity to work with Ken must be accepted with both hands," says Jackson. "I haven't up

to now missed any aspect of acting. I have never regarded acting as anything other than extremely hard work." Does she mean that politics is not?

Elizabethan rave

CONSERVATIONISTS who uttered large sighs of relief last month when Peter de Savary took the £6 million price tag off Littlecote House, his Elizabethan manor in Wiltshire, may have breathed too soon. The flamboyant de Savary has just received permission to hold a "rave" for 16,000 at the historic manor on New Year's Eve.

Many were concerned about the future of the house's collection of civil war armour when it first went on the market. Now they are more worried about the effect of 16,000 ravers, to say nothing of the noise, on the fabric of the house.

Environmental health officers on Kennet District Council opposed the application but were overruled by their political masters who have granted a licence. The decision has done nothing to sweeten the neighbours. Lord Chertwode, whose home is close to Littlecote, says he may have to cancel his traditional New Year's day pheasant shoot. "Otherwise we might end up shooting the ravers by mistake as they wander away from the party."



● Just who did Dr Steve Jones (centre), the geneticist and Reith lecturer, have in his sights on yesterday's *Desert Island Discs*? Smith seems to have got the names of various secretaries of state confused. Asked to name his luxury, he replied: "I'd like to honour the present Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Clarke, by keeping his stuffed body on my desert island." Did he mean Clarke (right), the home secretary, or John Patten (left), currently the education secretary?

● Fleet Street yesterday was awash with rumours that Alastair Campbell, the political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, was about to make a very public resignation on air. Campbell, who was presenting *What The Papers Say* on television last night, admits it was all his own fault. "Expect a major surprise at the end of

the programme," he had told colleagues. They all immediately supposed that their socialist political editor was about to quit in protest at the new right-wing Montgomery-Banks regime. "All I meant was that I was going to end the programme by playing the bagpipes," says the Scottish Campbell.

Just a bad spell

NO WONDER Liverpool schools scored so badly in the new examination league tables. The poor children, after all, are hardly being set a fine example. Frank Cogley, Liverpool's education director, has just sent all parents a letter with the council's booklet giving details about the city's educational objectives. Discriminate becomes "discriminate", by "principal and practice", one assumes, the director means principle, the grammar is atrocious, the punctuation almost non-existent.

The letter ends with a ringing declaration of the city's commitment to continue the "successful" path for Liverpool schools.

I never knew we did Current Affairs





COMMONSENSE VICTORY

France must not now sabotage a Gatt deal

At the last minute, the world's most powerful industrial countries have backed away from economic catastrophe. The deal announced in Brussels yesterday to end the bitter dispute between America and the European Community over agricultural trade brooks of no opposition by France — whose farm minister denounced it last night — or any other government. The jobs of millions and the future wealth of nations depend on it.

President Mitterrand must now exercise statesmanship. He faces a domestic crisis with his militant and increasingly lawless farmers if he does not veto the deal; but he will plunge the entire Community into crisis if he does. He has indicated that France will not fight alone — and the rules governing EC trade policy mean that the deal can be accepted by qualified majority of member states. France has threatened to invoke the Luxembourg compromise, under which a government can exercise veto in a matter of "vital national interest"; but by no stretch of the imagination is it in the interests of France to usher in a world trade war which would damage its entire economy.

The agricultural dispute is trivial in itself. What has made this quarrel so dangerous is that it put at risk the health of the entire world trading system. What matters now is that EC governments lose no time in endorsing the compromise reached on their behalf by the European Commission.

Only then will the way be open to conclude an infinitely more important global trade deal, the Uruguay Round of the Gatt, which has been stalled for two years thanks to the myopic deference of the EC, which prides itself on being the world's largest trading bloc, to its heavily subsidised farm industry.

A successful round could revive the economies of America and Western Europe, enable Eastern Europe to make a successful transition to free markets, bring prosperity to Third World farmers and, by rolling back protectionism, put money in consumers' pockets. This accord, which involves 108 countries, would open up new trading opportunities in 15 different sectors. Carla

Hills, America's trade negotiator, has estimated that it could add perhaps \$4,000 billion to the value of world trade ten years hence, generating millions of jobs both in the industrialised world and in the developing countries. Failure would not just mean the loss of opportunities to expand trade, but a serious risk of unleashing trade wars of the kind that contributed to the great depression of the 1930s.

That is what the EC, in defiance of its own best interests, has until this week been prepared to risk — and what France insists that it would still prefer, rather than "surrender" to the United States. France has said that it will accept no farm trade deal that goes further to reduce subsidies and farm output than the reforms to the common agricultural policy agreed last May. The EC negotiators, Ray MacSharry and Frans Andriessen, insist that it is compatible with the CAP reforms, but French ministers will well try to mount a filibuster. Since output and price levels are as difficult to predict with any accuracy as British weather, arguments over the fine print could drag on for months — until after the French parliamentary elections next March, if France has its way.

If that were to happen, the Uruguay Round would almost certainly be doomed despite yesterday's deal. If the final stage of Gatt talks opens next week, there will only just be time to remove obstacles in other areas — on which negotiations have been held up pending a breakthrough on farm trade — and complete the final drafting stages by March. The round stands or falls as a package. It has been six years in the making, and in March, the American administration's authority from the US Congress to negotiate an overall package which Congress would then accept or reject without amendments expires.

President Bush has devoted the last vestiges of his authority to the cause of free trade. Europe's interests and America's coincide. France has prided itself on championing the European cause. It must now show that this is more than rhetoric.

THE CALL OF DR LEONARD

Mass conversion is a practice better suited to the Dark Ages

The approach to the Roman Catholic Church made this week by Dr Graham Leonard was the act of a man whose outraged conscience has compelled him to rebel. Like the first Protestant, the former Bishop of London and leading opponent of female ordination proclaims: Here I stand, I can do no other.

As an act of principle, his personal defiance of the General Synod's decision to ordain women should command respect. But, at this delicate time when most Anglicans are struggling to reconcile the imperatives of conscience with a sincere desire for unity, Dr Leonard's clarion call for a mass defection to Rome is an ill-advised coup de théâtre.

Writing in *The Times* yesterday, Dr Leonard repeated the Anglo-Catholic axiom, that the Church of England is, quite simply, "the Catholic Church in this country", bound to the universal Christian tradition by the creeds, the sacraments and the ministry. In his overtures to Rome, he treats in the spiritual footsteps of Laud (who declined a cardinal's hat) and Newman (who accepted one). For the "substantial" Anglo-Catholic constituency he has chosen to champion, the doctrinal leap into the embrace of the Holy See would indeed be a small one. Institutionally, it is fraught with hazard.

Delving into canon law — which medieval scholars knew could be used to prove anything — Dr Leonard has dug up the institution of the personal prelature, in which a group defined by religious character, rather than territory becomes subject to papal jurisdiction. The only model to date is that of the semi-clandestine organisation Opus Dei, scarcely what traditionalists

seeking a safe haven from female ordination have in mind. The alternative is mass conversion, a straightforward flight of dissenters from Canterbury to Rome.

Both blueprints are unsatisfactory as a means of resolving the divisions within the Church of England. Dr Leonard takes a rose-tinted view of the 1896 bull *Apostolicae Curiae* rejecting Anglican orders, which he insists is open to reinterpretation. But Cardinal Basil Hume, whose reaction to the bishop's offer has been admirably restrained, has already identified "very serious practical difficulties" in papal recognition of the Anglican ministry. Even if Rome chose to waive these reservations, priests leaving Anglican orders would lose all ecclesiastical property and find most Catholic dioceses too poor to match their salaries. Those who were married would certainly be unable to continue as parish priests, relegated instead to the status of chaplains.

Mass conversion, in any case, seems a shallow response to a debate which has rightly been dominated by the prick of individual conscience: it is a Dark Age practice best confined to the pages of history books. Those who find the ordination of women unconscionable should explore the scope to campaign within the Church, as Dr David Hope, the traditionalist Bishop of London, urged yesterday, taking advantage of the means offered by the synod to opt out of the reform. Those, such as Dr Leonard, who feel they must leave, should not seek the safety of a mass exodus but resign their orders and join the Catholic Church peacefully as individual laymen. That would be an act of genuine and considered faith, of conviction matched by courage.

SERMONS IN PRECIOUS STONES

Buried treasure revives the spirit like little else

The lure of hidden treasure runs through literature from Jason's quest for the golden fleece to Jack and the beanstalk. In real life it runs from Schliemann claiming that he had gazed upon the face of Agamemnon to the retired gardener in Suffolk who has just turned up a hoard of Roman gold and silver in the clay.

Treasure trove: the very words are like a bell to ring treasure-hunters hoardwards and downwards, even though the Anglo-Saxon law cedes hidden treasure to the Crown for the bureaucratic purpose of melting it down for coinage. Part of the attraction is avarice, getting something for nothing, winning the pools without the sweat of predicting all those elusive score-draws. In this golden age of the common treasure-hunter — when cheap metal detectors are available to all — it is no longer necessary to be a king, an Elgin, a Trevelyan, Tradesant or Burrell. Amateurs are finding at least two million archaeological objects a year in the United Kingdom: about a quarter of the total.

There is more than simple greed, however, in the attraction of buried treasure. It fits the modern backward-looking passion for finding roots and continuity in a world that is changing faster than ever before. The retired RAF officer who turned up the gold

and silver jewellery at Snettisham last year felt that he was shaking hands with Queen Boudicca herself directly across the centuries, without the screens erected by even the most tactful museums and the glosses interposed by even the most imaginative scholars.

Treasure-hunters are looking for something more precious than gold. They seek the philosopher's stone that will bring the past back to life. The dream of discovering Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Found* or the manuscript of Catullus acting as a bung to a wine-barrel has nothing to do with their sale-room value, and everything to do with resurrection of creations above value.

This latest find has an eastern imperial look to it. It may prove to be the only treasure from Constantinople yet found in Roman Britain. It puts us in touch across 16 centuries with Britain's ancient masters just before they left for home. In the modern world of built-in obsolescence, where not even architects manufacture anything with an intended life of more than a generation, there is an old magic in such long-lived artifacts. Can we be confident that for treasure-hunters ten centuries from now there will be anything a thousandth part as beautiful as that Roman strainer with its dolphin and its bearded magnum in a Byzantine head-dress?

Lessons of school 'league tables'

From Ms Margaret Tulloch

Sir, It would be a shame if the positive lessons to be gained from the school league table debate (reports, November 19) were drowned in protests from all sides.

We must recognise that there is a real advantage in having information, however imperfect, available to all — not just those "clued in" sufficiently to collect all the prospectuses or price it out of LEA minutes.

If schools select pupils and parents and throw out those that won't conform, it is likely that their exam results will look good. We need to know how good they really are. Educationists must arrive at an agreed system of value-added assessment now, so that we can all press for its introduction as soon as possible. Teachers and heads must not retire hurt behind the staff-room door but work with parents to explain, discuss and plan together for improvement.

Yours etc,
MARGARET TULLOCH
(Secretary),
Campaign for State Education,
158 Durham Road, SW20.

From the Director of the Independent Schools Information Service

Sir, Your report, "Private schools shun publication of exam results" (November 18), appears almost three months after more than 500 independent senior schools published their A and AS-level results collectively and in great detail for the first time. Indeed, *The Times* and other newspapers printed them in August.

The fact that only a quarter of independent schools appear in this week's government lists is not due to any reluctance on their part to publish examination results which confirm their academic excellence. It is due to the method of reporting chosen by the Department for Education, which excludes the achievements of thousands of independent school pupils.

It is common practice in many independent schools to enter able pupils a year early for GCSEs and A levels. But the department has ruled that these results cannot be included with this year's cohort of results; nor can they be carried over to next year when the pupils in question will have reached the normal age for their examinations. This is unfair to these pupils and distorts results from the schools concerned.

Independent schools individually have published their examination results for many years. They will continue this year's exercise of publishing them collectively through ISIS and will add GCSE results next summer. But they hope the department will amend its format so that all candidates can be included — as they are in our own system — before next year, when all schools' results will have to be reported.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. WOODHEAD, Director,
ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
November 18.

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, The school league tables show Hackney Downs Comprehensive school at the bottom of the London Borough of Hackney's table, with no A-level passes at all.

In my day, Hackney Downs County Secondary School (known colloquially as "the Grocers", after the City livery company from whom the building had been purchased) was the flagship of opportunity in east London, the avenue for talented children, many very poor indeed. Lord Peston and Harold Pinter were among those who went there. Later to kick away the ladder for others.

Like most county secondary schools, Hackney Downs owed much to the initiative of Labour party councils. Its levelling-down as a result of Croydon's vendetta against the grammar schools in the mid-sixties, conducted in the name of anti-elitism, deprived children in the area of their chance to benefit from the education expenditures, which had quadrupled, and of the chance to go on to higher education. Its contribution to children's extra-curricular advancement and the life of the area was commensurate with its academic contribution.

We East-European immigrant Jews in particular benefited from this aspect of the opportunity society. Hackney still has many Jews, but they must now look elsewhere for opportunity. Socialism and comprehensive education have made a desert and called it equality.

Yours etc.,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7.

From Dr David Bowsher

Sir, "Affluence breeds academic success" reads one of your column headlines this morning, referring to the school examination "league tables".

May it not in fact be the case that intellectual (not necessarily strictly academic) success often breeds affluence? The rest is left to genetics. This seems to me the strongest argument in favour of striving to ensure equality of academic opportunity.

Yours etc.,
DAVID BOWSHER,
51 Hillview Gardens, Liverpool 25,
November 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XX Telephone 071-762 5000

UN troops in peacekeeping roles

From Major-General H. M. Tillotson

Sir, Concern for the security of British troops and those of other nations in Yugoslavia is an understandable emotional activity. It must be recognised, however, that soldiers are selected for such hazardous humanitarian tasks exactly because they are trained, organised and commanded for duties of this kind. No one else is qualified to try.

Dr Stephen Pullinger (letter, November 14), while thoughtful for the safety of the men of the British contingent of the United Nations force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is mistaken in thinking that armed forces operating under a UN peacekeeping mandate or the protective mandate of resolution 749 (1992) are in any position to enforce anything. Nor should they be.

After being sent round the UN missions in the Middle East by the then UN secretary-general in 1975, in the brief pause after the first civil war in Lebanon, it was clear to me that three conditions must exist for UN peacekeeping or protective operations.

The fighting has ceased, or almost ceased; the warring factions have respite, if not yet peace; and a UN presence is accepted to give breathing space.

To function, the UN mission must have communication with and the tacit support of all parties in the prevention of further bloodshed.

Although these conditions apply in some degree to the border areas of Serbia and Croatia, where the UN presence is assisting in pragmatic but often cruel compromise, not one applies in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Now, three things might help: Demands for UN air-strikes against artillery positions should cease. Such attacks would be provocative, inflict civilian casualties and be largely ineffective in that countryside.

Second, UN forces on the ground should be left to establish their own strictly localised relations with the factions, so as best to carry out humanitarian missions.

Third, international commercial pressure should be intensified on the Belgrade regime. It does not have widespread control, but it is the only strategic pressure point that remains.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. TILLOTSON,
PO Box 12,
Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire,
November 17.

Georgia's use of force

From Dr George Hewitt and others

Sir, The British government has shown its readiness to oppose the evils of "ethnic cleansing" by supporting UN sanctions against Serbia and by committing troops to Bosnia. This determination is to be contrasted with its attitude to events unfolding in Georgia, which we recognised in March after Eduard Shevardnadze's return and whose foreign minister, Pyotr Chikvaдзе, will be in London on November 22 for a two-day visit.

Georgia has now been recognised by the EC and other Western countries: it is a signatory to the CSCE (Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe) accords, and has been welcomed as a member of the United Nations. Despite all this, it launched a full-scale attack on the republic of Abkhazia on August 14 to prevent this region reconstituting the federative relations enjoyed with Georgia throughout the 1920s, even though negotiations on the nature of this new federation were being held at that time.

We would strongly urge the Foreign Office in its meetings with its Georgian guest to make three points abundantly clear:

1. Tbilisi must cease its use of force

immediately and return to the negotiations sabotaged by the resort to force.

2. No aid of any kind will be forthcoming from the UK unless Tbilisi abides by its CSCE undertakings to respect the rights of all its citizens regardless of ethnicity or political opinion — the newly appointed CSCE high commissioner for national minorities should surely play a mediating role in Abkhazia.

3. There can be no question of this country accepting a Georgian ambassador (planned for December) without a prior peaceful settlement of the Abkhazian conflict.

We would judge the offer of official hospitality to Mr Chikvaдзе as morally acceptable only if the visit served as an opportunity to impress upon him what is expected of a civilised society in the post-Soviet world of 1992.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE HEWITT,
AUBURY, RACHEL CLOGG,
ENNAIS, ALF LOMAS,
HAKAN MERCAN,
DONALD RAYFIELD,
C/o School of Oriental and African Studies,
(Near/Middle East Department),
Thornhaugh Street, WC1,
November 17.

Strain in depleted army

From Lord Fanshawe of Richmond and others

Sir, As former Household Cavalry officers we wish to support Field Marshal Lord Bramall's letter of November 14 on army manpower. There is a simple and cheap way to help ease the situation: review the decision to cut the Household Division — a decision which will undermine both the finest military ceremonial in the world and the division's operational ability.

A balance is needed for sufficient training and operational soldiering to carry out the division's role as a reserve force ready for immediate use at home or overseas. This occurred during the Falklands war when both

Household Cavalry and Foot Guards were in action. The balance is undermined by reducing the number of Foot Guard battalions.

The Household Cavalry is being asked to provide the same ceremonial commitment, based on one service unit instead of two. The solution is for the Life Guards or Blues and Royals to provide a much-needed third regular reserve regiment for the Rapid Reaction Corps. The current proposals for the Household Division will not work.

Yours faithfully,
FANSHAWE OF RICHMOND,
PAUL CHANNON,
CHARLES GOODSON-WICKES,
Palace of Westminster,
November 15.

Clergy college

From Mrs Sarah Wood and Mrs Cathy Pullinger

Sir, In "Clergy colleges saved" by Ruth Gledhill and Paul Wilkinson (November 13), you allude to the criticism in the report "A Way Ahead" that Oak Hill College trains women inadequately.

The college attracts a good number of women students and the total number of women ordinands is only just below the recommended portion. Twenty per cent of the academic college staff are women, who are fully integrated into the educational and pastoral life of the college.

The staff are sensitive to the question of women in training and

ministry. Both men and women are free to hold their own views on this subject and are encouraged to express these with Christian love and respect. The college responds more than adequately to the training requirements for women as set out in the House of Bishops guidelines.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH WOOD,
CATHY PULLINGER,
Oak Hill College,
Chase Side, Southgate, N14,
November 13.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-762 5046.

Patient care and dignity in death

From Miss Jean Powell

Sir, The High Court decision that doctors should be permitted to withhold Tony Bland's food and fluid (report, November 20) has emphasised the parents' wish that their son should be allowed to die with dignity.

Contrary to Mr K. A. Davies's view (letter, November 11) that such a death would be "brutal", I think it brutal to submit someone to prolonged nasogastric feeding when there is no hope of recovery. The tube must need constant changing, his body functions need continual attention — at least an indignity and possibly worse, since no one can be sure that Mr Bland's body does not, at some level, experience pain or discomfort.

In such circumstances a debate on the distinctions between "life-support systems" and artificial feeding is unbelievably cruel.

Yours sincerely,
J. POWELL,
30 Iris Close, Weoley Hill,
Birmingham, West Midlands,
November 20.

Public expenditure

From Mr Clive Bone

Sir, The government is concerned about public expenditure which stands at £244 billion. Yet it has failed to ensure the use of a proven method that can reduce costs whilst maintaining the quality of public services.

This method is known as value analysis (VA), neglected in Britain, but employed elsewhere in the world, particularly by the USA, Germany and Japan. VA invariably yields ten times its own costs and often more. New York City Council in 1987 saved \$114 million with a VA programme costing \$1.2 million.

VA is a step-by-step process that begins by analysing all the information regarding the service or product, continues with a "speculation stage" whereby improved methods are generated, and is followed by a thorough evaluation and the implementation of the improved methods.

A VA programme targeted to achieve an annual 1 per cent reduction in public spending without loss of quality or function is more than feasible, and would be worth £18 billion to the government over five years. Sadly it shows no interest in VA and insofar as VA is being promoted this is being left to the European Commission.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE BONE
Clive Bone & Partners
(Quality consultants),
30 Victoria Avenue,
South Croydon, Surrey.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

Heritage proposals

From Mr R. Anthony Dams

Sir, In English Heritage's "Managing England's Heritage: Setting out Priorities for the 1990s" (letters, November 20, etc.) the director writes that "we will reduce expenditure on properties in the third category (of importance) and seek to pass these over to local government" in order to make "the Heritage £ go further".

I too am setting my priorities for the 1990s and trying to make my pound go further. To this end I shall cancel my membership of English Heritage and transfer my pounds to more worthy cultural causes who are trying to extend, not contract their aims and responsibilities.

Your obedient servant,
R. ANTHONY DAMS,
301 Park Lane,
Selston, Nottinghamshire.

Film buffery

From Mr Peter F. Carter-Ruck

Sir, It seems clear that readers also may have a very different view of their top ten films from those of the critics (leading article, "Film literacy", November 16) and it would surely be interesting to explore this diversity. For mine, I would select (not necessarily in the following order):

Double Indemnity
Casablanca
La Grande Illusion
Genevieve
Modern Times
Un Homme et Une Femme
I'm Alright Jack
Top Hat
Rebecca
The Woman in the Window.

Yours faithfully,

PETER CARTER-RUCK,
75 Shoe Lane, EC4.

Counting the pennies

From Mr Geoffrey Norris

Sir, So the Science Museum is to replace its live science information service with a cheaper postal one because "60 per cent of people merely wanted to know the way to the lavatory" (Diary, November 18). One hopes they use first-class stamps.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY NORRIS,
Glencot, Church Hill,
Horsell, Woking, Surrey,
November 18.

مكتبة الأصل

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY KIRSTEN

Dorothy Kirsten, American soprano, died in Los Angeles on November 18 from complications following a stroke. She was born on July 6 in Montclair, New Jersey. A number of different years are quoted for her birthdate of which 1915 is one but it could have been earlier.

ONE film brought Dorothy Kirsten a public far beyond the audiences at America's leading opera houses. This was *The Great Caruso*. Mario Lanza was Caruso and Kirsten the screen soprano who, somewhat improbably, seemed to partner him every time he sang at The Met. The film was ridiculed in 1951 by certain opera buffs, but it made MGM a substantial amount of money and has kept its popularity. Jose Carreras is in the habit of saying that a childhood visit to *The Great Caruso* first sparked his desire to be an international tenor.

Among those less keen on Dorothy Kirsten's screen appearance was the then general manager of The Met, Rudolf Bing, who did not much like one of his leading sopranos flirting with Hollywood. He had already had difficulties with Helen Traubel, a decade or so older than Kirsten, who had a penchant for singing in night clubs. Smoke, Bing reckoned, got not only in the eyes but in the voice.

But on a number of occasions Dorothy Kirsten had helped him out when the going became rough and the



situation tricky. Once was when Patrice Munsel, an attractive but lightweight soprano in the Deanna Durbin mould, took fright at singing

1961-2 season. Leonora Price found the role of Minnie in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* too taxing for her and Kirsten was called to the rescue.

Bing, if he had looked at Dorothy Kirsten's musical history, might have spotted that the cameras would have held their attractions. She was first spotted and helped at the start of her career by another American soprano, Grace Moore. No-one had been more adept than Miss Moore in combining a career at The Met with one on screen. *One Night of Love* in the 1930s had the same popular success as *The Great Caruso*.

The young Dorothy Kirsten supported her studies at the Juilliard by working for a telephone company and later acting as maid and secretary to her singing teacher, Grace Moore. She heard her sing on radio, when she was set on a musical comedy career, and helped pay for further opera study with Astolfo Pescia in Italy. In 1947 Kirsten was to acknowledge her sponsor by taking the title role of *Chatterbox* at The Met and dedicating the performance to Grace Moore — Louise had been one of Moore's greatest roles and one that she had filmed.

The tiny part of Pousette in Massenet's *Manon* was the one in which Dorothy Kirsten made her stage debut, in Chicago in 1940. She moved to the New York City Opera in 1944 and the following year made her first appearance at The Met, as Mimì. There she

was to stay, with only a couple of breaks, until her official farewell as Tosca on New Year's Eve, 1975. She was reckoned to be the first prima donna to celebrate a 30th anniversary with the house.

Although Dorothy Kirsten appeared in some contemporary opera, including Walton's *Troilus and Cressida*, she was a specialist in the popular lyric roles, especially of Puccini. Mimì and Butterfly led to Tosca and the Minnie of *Fanciulla*.

She was impressive too in the nineteenth century French repertoire and made several forays into more popular music. She appeared on screen with Bing Crosby in *Mr. Music* and recording with Gordon MacRae. She had her own radio show and made regular appearances on television and in the concert hall.

But the career was very much an American one. She was heard little overseas, although she did achieve notoriety as the first American soprano to sing in the Soviet Union after the war. This was in 1962 when relations between the two countries were at their nadir. The director of the Tullis Opera hailed her as a link "in the chain of friendship".

After she retired from the stage Dorothy Kirsten wrote her biography *A Time To Sing* (1982) and devoted her energies to helping those who were suffering from Alzheimer's disease, which caused the death of her husband, John Douglas French, a neurosurgeon, in 1989.

BRIAN HARVEY

Brian Harvey, features editor of *The Daily Telegraph* 1960-76, died on November 5 aged 78. He was born on April 14, 1914.

BRIAN Harvey possessed some cynics would say, the most important prerequisite for a satisfactory career in Fleet Street journalism: a private income. For a time he dabbled in race-horse owning. It pleased him to have a hobby more fitting for newspaper proprietors than for newspaper employees.

One way or another, he earned a place as a Fleet Street character while he was features editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. According to one standing joke, this was a post akin to being Holy Roman Emperor when there was not much of an empire left: one of the peculiarities of the *Telegraph* at that period was that it had few features, in the journalistic sense of the word, to edit.

But Harvey was an important — sometimes alarmingly important — figure because of another peculiarity of the way the paper was then organised. It was run almost as if it were two entities, one a hard-nosed newspaper, competing to some extent with the tabloids and with no false pride about reporting sex and violence, and the other a paper that competed in the quality market, led by *The Times*, in providing commentary on politics, the arts and current affairs.

Relations between these two schools of journalism conducted under the same roof could be hostile. Harvey, combative, prickly, slightly bureaucratic,



saw his role as fighting the "quality" corner — and putting down markers for the day when commonsense would prevail and the two sides would come together. But his abrasive style could be counter-productive.

It was not a case simply of the hostility that can exist on many newspapers, sometimes to their benefit, between tough professionals and starchy-eyed intellectuals. The news side of the *Telegraph* did not lack intellectual calibre and had plenty of people who were seasoned professionals by any newspaper criterion. In any case Harvey, a stern upholder of traditional journalistic disciplines, saw his duty as keeping the "other side" up to scratch. Contributors who failed to meet a deadline tended, after an interview with Harvey, never to be late a second time.

In the eyes of the news men Harvey had the disqualification of an Oxford education. But he was a newspaper pro at his best in a crisis, jacket off, head down, ashtray at the ready, despatching copy fast

and accurately and imaginatively. In the right mood he could get through in a couple of hours what was a day's work for some of his colleagues. And those couple of hours would probably have included a session pouring over the form books he took his horse racing seriously.

Frustrated by being, as he saw it, under-used he was exposed to the best known occupational hazard of Fleet Street. He became one of the most familiar denizens of the King and Keys pub, which was among the earlier establishments catering for journalists in Fleet Street's heyday. Conversation there of an evening could sometimes be fierce and stimulating. Sometimes it was just fierce. In his Oxford days Harvey was reckoned to have been violently left-wing. His views changed but the violence remained.

Harvey's first wife, by whom he had a son, had died in 1960. His home in a sense became the K and K, and the hours spent there got longer once it became clear that his dream of succeeding to the editorship of the paper, and presiding over the merging of the "two-sides", would never happen.

By that time tension had been focused into a bitter personal battle between Harvey and an equally redoubtable figure, Peter Eastwood, who headed the news side. Eastwood, relatively teetotal and unhampered by an Oxbridge background, effectively won the struggle.

Harvey was also pre-deceased by his second wife, Shelagh McCormick, who was the paper's local government correspondent.

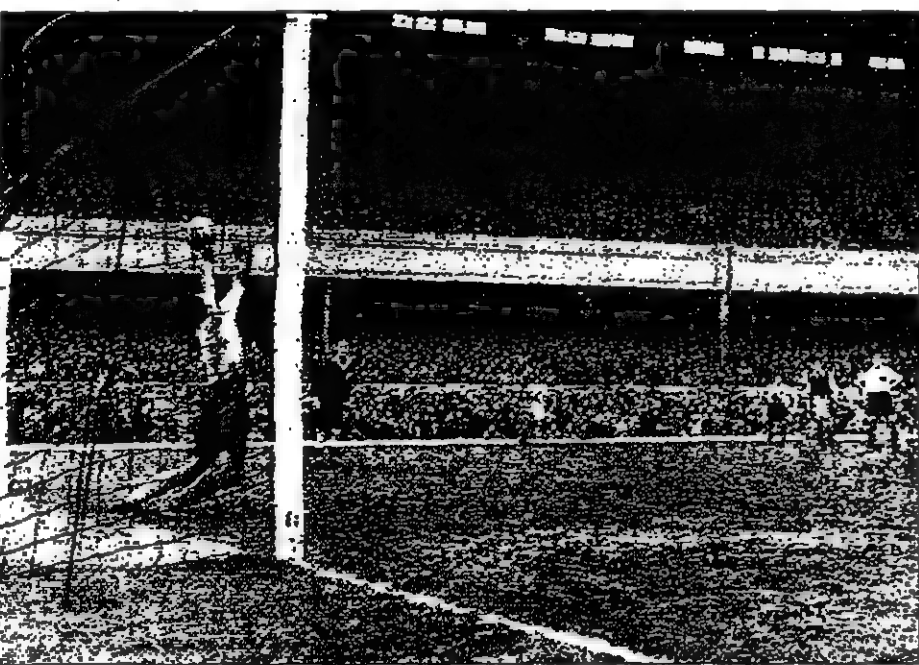
BEN BROWN

Ben Brown, chemist, amateur international golfer and fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, died on September 28 aged 66. He was born on January 3, 1926.

BEN Brown was the son of a Yorkshire miner, who died in a mining accident when his child was only five. Brown, who was brought up by a mother determined to give him the best possible education, epitomised the social transformation of the post-war years. He was an early beneficiary of the liberalisation of Oxford and Cambridge entry.

His shy nature, unchanging with success, disguised the many abilities that made him a path-beater for a new generation, whose interests he served unstintingly at work and play until premature death struck down by motor neurone disease, ironically the same affliction suffered by a fellow Oxford international sportsman, John Turner.

Excelling at science at Merton Grammar School — and becoming a fluent reader of French and German — Ben Brown won a county scholarship to Oxford where he obtained a first in chemistry in 1947. In collaboration with D. L. Hamrick, his Oriel tutor and a fellow of the Royal Society,



Brown saving from Adams's penalty in the 1951 FA Amateur Cup semi-final

his research work for his DPhil led to frequent papers in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*. This prominence earned him an 1851 Exhibition senior scholarship at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he developed research in the organic field of vegetable and insect pigments and related dyes.

Returning to a fellowship at Oriel in 1954, Brown

launched into independent research of heterocyclic oxygen compounds and dangerous carcinogenic nitroamines. Up to the time of his death he was working on a book on aliphatic nitrogen compounds.

When Brown first arrived at Oxford, the goalkeeping position in the university XI was occupied by the well-established Colin Weir. Brown's

breakthrough came with the creation of Pegasus, the combined team of Oxford and Cambridge, and he was preferred to Weir for their first entry into the Amateur Cup in 1948. The history of Pegasus was meteoric, romantic and brief, withering by the early 1960s. But Brown's contribution was notable. The club won the cup in their third season, 1950-51,

defeating the legendary Bishop Auckland 2-1, thanks in part to Brown's remarkable penalty save from Dexter Adams minutes from time in the semi-final against Hendon at Highbury, enabling a replay and victory. A fortnight later he was awarded the first of seven England caps against Scotland. His reliability was so undemonstrative that it seemed at times he was unaware of his achievements, so that he was a target for the irreverent humour that was always present in the team. Off the field, his own wry comments, barely audible, were often a foil to the boisterous exaggerations of Harold Thompson, Oxford physics professor and the team's lieutenant.

Brown's performances won him a place in the British Olympic team of 1952. The following year Pegasus won the cup again, defeating Harwich 6-0, the final again drawing 100,000 spectators to Wembley as the dream-horse took wing.

In 1985 Brown became chairman of the university senior treasurer's committee, the body funding 60 university sports clubs, and he did much to promote the interests of women's sport. In 1963 he married Hilda Imlach, fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford, by whom he is survived.

REV GEORGE HOFFMAN

The Rev George Hoffman, OBE, founder of Tear Fund, was killed in a road accident near Gloucester on October 16, aged 59. He was born in Birkenhead on August 27, 1933.

GEORGE Hoffman, created The Evangelical Alliance Relief (TEAR) Fund and, as its director, guided its fortunes for its first 21 years. He saw its first year's income of £34,000 grow to £15 million before he moved on.

An only child of Christian parents, he left Birkenhead School with no academic distinction worth mentioning and spent his national service in the RAF.

Despite his upbringing, he had little interest in the Christian faith but went through a "Damascus Road" conversion at a fairly typical evangelistic rally in the RAF. Soon after working in a commercial arts studio, he became conscious of a call to the Church of England's ministry and set about acquiring, in the early mornings, the necessary qualifications to gain entry to Bristol University where he read Theology.

Ordained in 1961, by



Mervyn Stockwood, he married, and served curacies in Wimbledon and Edgware before being appointed assistant secretary of the Evangelical Alliance and assistant editor of *Crusade* magazine, which was a lasting legacy of the 1954 Billy Graham Haringway crusade. One day in 1966, Morgan Derham, the secretary, handed him a file marked "EA Refugee Fund" and Tear Fund was born.

It is no secret that Evangelicals, both inside and outside the Church of England, had at that time a strong suspicion about relief and aid agencies like Christian Aid and Hoff-

man threw all his energies into changing that attitude. A year before, he had been one of the youthful agitators who had transformed the Keele Congress into a watershed for Anglican Evangelicals and through Tear Fund he captured the idealism of a whole generation whose eyes were opened to the dimension of tragedy on a global scale, involving famine, flood, earthquake, and a massive refugee problem. Hoffman crossed the world.

His face could move from pain and horror to humour in a few seconds. His voice could be strong, gentle, full of passionate intensity and yet the underlying Merseyside wit was never absent. And he was a good journalist.

It was a recipe which caught the attention of thousands of Christian people and turned their minds to the alleviating of human need across the world. Money poured in.

In 1989 Hoffman was appointed OBE. After more than two decades, he parted company with his brainchild and was appointed vice president of Samaritan International, an American relief and development agency.

He leaves a widow and three daughters.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

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Government raises £1.3bn in debt sale

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE government announced yesterday that its auction of debt in privatised companies was almost five times oversubscribed, as City institutions and the companies involved rushed to pay high prices for the bonds.

Barings, the merchant bank handling the auction, said the sale had raised £1.34 billion cash to help fund the government's spending programme, against a target of £1.25 billion.

Barings was forced to increase the amount sold because it was committed to selling complete tranches of debt. The successful bidders were chosen by the amount of premium they were prepared to pay for the debt.

The success of the auction still leaves the government with more than £2.5 billion in unsold debt. This is expected to be offered in future sales, when the debt in the electricity companies can be offered to third parties.

Four issues of BT debt were sold with BT buying two worth £320 million. It was unsuccessful in its bids for at least two other issues, since it had agreed to bid for bonds worth a minimum £750 million.

UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, became the largest single buyer, with a £220 million Eurobond issue. Goldman Sachs, the American firm, bought a £180 million issue. The firms are expected to sell their debt to international investment institutions, which will be attracted by the yield and security of the issues.

PowerGen, Scottish Hydro-Electric and Scottish Power were the other successful bidders, buying debt with a face value of £408 million. Four other electricity companies made unsuccessful offers, while five refused to bid at all.

PowerGen said yesterday it had paid a premium of £19 million over the £150 million face value of its issue, but that its successful bid would still save it £4 million a year in reduced interest costs.

In all, Barings received 30 bids for the debt worth a total £5.78 billion. These comprised 11 bids from six securities firms for BT Eurobonds and 19 bids by the companies for their own debt.

The debt was sold at an average premium of 18 per cent over face value since it carries interest rates from 11.4 to 12.25 per cent. Cliff Haddy, assistant director at Barings, said the successful bidders paid an average 17 basis points above the reserve prices, which is high in relation to similar debt auctions.

"We designed the auction to ensure that there was a level playing field and the results speak for themselves. There was no dominant group in the auction," said Mr Haddy.

BT poised for ringing response

THE government's alert for investors to get their chequebooks ready before the next — and, possibly, last — of HMG's public offering of all (or part) of its 22 per cent residual stake in BT could well lead to early queues forming outside banks and building societies.

If base rates continue to fall, as the government seems determined they will, and if the rate of dividends BT pays continues to advance, as the 7.9 per cent increase in BT's interim suggests it should, demand for BT3 should be strong.

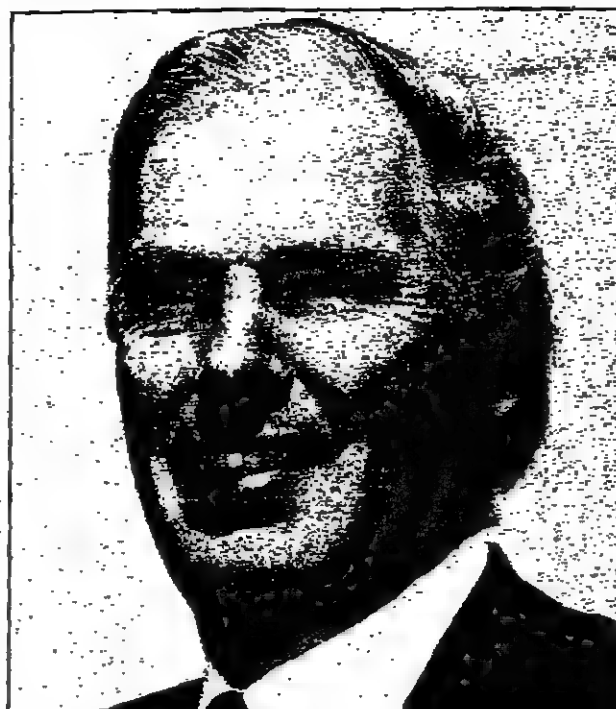
Investors who subscribed for the first public offering of BT shares in November 1984, at 130p now see BT shares at 395p.

The second offering to the public in December 1991, was at 93p a share, of which the third and final instalment of 105p a share is due in March.

Publication earlier this month of the interim results of BT, chaired by Iain Vallance, for the six months ended September showed pre-tax profits down from £1.61 billion to £1.03 billion, and net earnings back from 17.4p to 10.1p a share. The interim dividend, however, rose from 5.7p to 6.15p a share.

After a weak first quarter, there was evidence of an underlying improvement in BT's second quarter.

There were suggestions that the improved trend continued in October, although this has not stopped analysts expecting 1993 pre-tax profits



Share alert: Iain Vallance sets the tone for BT offer

to fall, from £3.07 billion pre-tax in 1992 to £2.65 billion.

The total dividend should still rise from 14.4p to, say, 15.6p a share. Pre-tax profits in 1994 could rise to £3.45 billion.

BT3 is likely to be launched with a host of incentives to "roll up and buy", and although market conditions and the government's financial needs will dictate just when and at what price the next offer will be made, BT's prospective yield of 5.7 per cent based on 1994 dividend hopes — by which current base rates at 7 per cent should

look like a mountain — already suggests a warm response.

National Express

THIS weekend is a busy one for National Express, the bus group, and its advisers. They have to decide what price to put on the shares when they are placed around the City and offered to the public on Tuesday.

Private investors should bear in mind that the flotation is largely for the com-

pany's benefit. At the moment, its balance sheet has a negative net worth of almost £11 million, a black hole that needs to be filled in.

About 89 million of the money raised will be used to redeem existing preference share capital.

The group's trading record is chequered, but its prospects seem reasonable. At the trading profit level, it made £5 million in 1989, lost almost £1 million in 1990 and made £5 million in 1991.

That year, however, saw a £5.5 million exceptional charge as the new management team sorted out previous diversifications and charged up £1.8 million of costs associated with a buy-in.

The draft prospectus here asks £6.5 million before tax for the year to January 2. Future opportunities lie in coach services to Eastern Europe, airport services, and taking advantage of the British Rail privatisation which could reduce competition.

Any economic upturn would also play into National Express's hands.

Its advisers seem minded to price the company in line with the transport sector. But there is nothing quite like National Express to compare with. The cheaper it is compared to the average transport sector multiple of just over 13 the better.

In any event, National Express is playing safe. All the shares are to be placed with institutions, and 25 per cent will be clawed back if there is public demand. There are no shareholder incentives.

Ex-chairman receives £852,000 payoff

TONY Millar, who helped to build Albert Fisher, the food group, into an international company, received compensation of £852,000 after he was forced to step down as executive chairman in July. Mr Millar resigned after pressure from the board following City criticism of his ability to manage the group's progress. Albert Fisher's annual report shows that he received a salary of £252,000 in the year to August 31 — slightly less than the £260,000 he received the year before.

Through a series of acquisitions, Mr Millar transformed a small fruit and vegetable supplier into a company with a market capitalisation of almost £800 million in March 1991, when the share price was 133p. However, a profits warning in June this year saw the company's shares plummet to just 36p. The group's profits before tax for the year to August 31 fell to £52.1 million from £89 million in the previous 12 months. Mr Millar was succeeded by Stephen Walls, formerly at the Arjo Wiggins paper group. Despite the reduction in profits, Mr Walls maintained the annual dividend at 3.75p to help restore the confidence of City institutions.

New port for Nissan

NISSAN has announced plans for big savings in transport costs by switching the port it uses for exporting and importing in Britain. From December next year, Nissan's operations will be moved to Jarrow on the River Tyne, less than ten miles from the firm's Sunderland car plant, from Teesport, Cleveland, more than 40 miles away. The new custom-built terminal — on a 27-acre site — will result in the creation of ten jobs. The 37 people it employs at Teesport will be offered jobs there. The government-run Tyne and Wear Development Corporation is to release £600,000 towards a new road for the site.

Bulgin dips at half time

AF BULGIN & Company, which makes and distributes electrical and electronics components, reports a decrease in pre-tax profits to £32,000 in the six months to end-June, against £57,000 last time, on a static turnover of £6.58 million. Profits were depressed by a £14,000 exceptional charge, relating to redundancies and reorganisation, after a £93,000 charge in the same period last year. The company said new products were being brought on line earlier, although demand had been erratic in the second half. Earnings dip to 0.11p (0.16p) a share. The company is again paying no interim dividend.

Caird issues warning

SHARES in Caird, the environmental services group, fell from 35p to 19p after the company gave warning that second-half profits would fall short of the £1.35 million earned pre-tax in the first six months. It blamed a poor third quarter, caused by depressed demand and squeezed margins, compounded by delays in bringing on stream new facilities. Caird said revenue growth was constrained by planning authorities that appeared not to have a clear understanding of rules and procedures. There is unlikely to be a final dividend. Last year, shareholders received a final payment of 1.37p.

Dobson Park buys

DOBSON Park Industries, the engineering group, has bought Harland Crossfield, a subsidiary of Harland Simon, the collapsed control systems company, from receivers. The initial consideration is £2.3 million. The acquisition of Harland Crossfield, which designs and manufactures control systems for the printing industry, safeguards about 80 jobs. Further profit-related payments of up to £600,000 are payable over two years. Harland Crossfield's net assets had an unaudited value of £5.4 million on September 30, and the company earned profits of £400,000 before interest in the year to March 31, on turnover of £10.8 million.

London cuts losses

LONDON & Metropolitan, the troubled property company, rescued after a refinancing last year, reported reduced pre-tax losses of £4.44 million in the half year to end-June, against a £15 million loss last time. The company made an operating profit of £2.35 million, against a loss of £10.5 million previously, but remained in the red as overall interest costs rose to £6.79 million (£4.43 million). The loss per share is reduced to 6.8p, against a loss of 26p a share last time. There is again no interim dividend and the group does not intend paying one "for the foreseeable future". The shares were unchanged at 2½p.

McInerney trims deficit

MCINERNEY Properties, the Irish property company that recently completed a financial restructuring programme, reports a reduced pre-tax loss of £1.2 million (£1.3 million) in the six months to end-June (pre-tax £1.3 million). Turnover climbed 6.7 per cent to £15 million. Sales in the group's housing developments in Waterford, Cork and Limerick remained steady. The company said the housing operations had performed satisfactorily. There was an exceptional charge of £300,000 and an extraordinary loss of £1650,000. The loss per share is 2.13p (3.93p). There is no interim dividend.



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BONDS took a back seat as the focus of interest switched to the debt market, where the government sold off its remaining debt in a clutch of privatised companies.

The Treasury is reckoned to have raised £1.3 billion selling debt in four companies — BT, PowerGen, Scottish Hydro and Scottish Hydro-Electric. Most of the debt was acquired by the companies themselves but some was

snapped up by outside agencies. As a result, gilt prices fluctuated within narrow limits. On the futures market, the Long Gilt future closed three ticks lower at £997 1/2 in low volume — only 22,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Exchequer 10 per cent 1996 ended down two ticks at £109 1/2, at the longer end, Treasury 8 1/2 per cent 2017 was six ticks lower at £98 7/8.

High	Low	Stock	Price	+	-	Int	Chg	Vol
SHORTS (under 5 years)								
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1993	100%	...	...	0.00	0.07	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1994	100%	...	...	0.23	0.76	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1995	100%	...	...	0.87	0.61	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1996	100%	...	...	1.22	0.43	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1997	100%	...	...	1.24	0.32	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1998	100%	...	...	0.81	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1999	100%	...	...	0.68	0.39	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2000	100%?	...	...	0.32	0.33	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2001	100%	...	...	1.14	0.66	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2002	100%	...	...	1.24	0.33	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2003	100%	...	...	1.22	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2004	100%	...	...	2.16	0.30	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2005	100%	...	...	0.66	0.78	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2006	100%	...	...	0.68	0.81	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2007	100%	...	...	1.04	0.92	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2008	100%	...	...	0.67	0.34	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2009	100%	...	...	0.12	2.17	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2010	100%	...	...	1.12	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2011	100%	...	...	1.19	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2012	100%	...	...	0.21	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2013	100%	...	...	0.61	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2014	100%	...	...	0.98	7.28	...
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)								
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1997	100%	...	...	0.00	0.07	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1998	100%	...	...	0.23	0.76	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 1999	100%	...	...	0.87	0.61	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2000	100%	...	...	1.22	0.43	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2001	100%	...	...	1.24	0.32	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2002	100%	...	...	0.81	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2003	100%	...	...	0.68	0.39	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2004	100%	...	...	1.14	0.66	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2005	100%	...	...	1.24	0.33	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2006	100%	...	...	1.22	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2007	100%	...	...	2.16	0.30	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2008	100%	...	...	0.66	0.78	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2009	100%	...	...	0.68	0.81	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2010	100%	...	...	1.04	0.92	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2011	100%	...	...	0.67	0.34	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2012	100%	...	...	0.12	2.17	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2013	100%	...	...	1.12	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2014	100%	...	...	1.19	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2015	100%	...	...	0.21	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2016	100%	...	...	0.61	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0% 2017	100%	...	...	0.98	7.28	...
LONGS (over 15 years)								
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.00	0.07	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.23	0.76	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.87	0.61	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.22	0.43	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.24	0.32	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.81	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.68	0.39	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.14	0.66	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.24	0.33	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.22	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	2.16	0.30	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.66	0.78	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.68	0.81	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.04	0.92	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.67	0.34	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.12	2.17	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.12	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.19	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.21	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.61	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.98	7.28	...
UNDATED								
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.00	0.07	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.23	0.76	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.87	0.61	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.22	0.43	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.24	0.32	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.81	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.68	0.39	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.14	0.66	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.24	0.33	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.22	0.62	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	2.16	0.30	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.66	0.78	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.68	0.81	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.04	0.92	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.67	0.34	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.12	2.17	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.12	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	1.19	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.21	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.61	7.28	...
100%	92%	Fixed 0%	100%	...	...	0.98	7.28	...

BUSINESS PROFILE: Lord Stevens of Ludgate

Soft-hearted introvert behind a prickly facade

There are two distinct sides to the legendary head of Express Newspapers, Carol Leonard finds

Every night before he goes to sleep, Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of Express Newspapers, United Newspapers and Invesco MIM, the fund management group, kneels down beside his bed and says his prayers.

Once, in an army dormitory, his fellow officers were so taken aback by the sight of Stevens with his head bowed, eyes closed and hands clasped together that they rushed to his aid, thinking he must have fallen ill.

"I'm not a great church-goer but I do believe there is a God there, directing our destiny," he says. "It is not always obvious that he is there but I believe you can communicate with him provided you show respect. It means you can't say your prayers on the hoof, you have to get down on your knees."

The prospect of Stevens, 56, kneeling for anyone, however, would be greeted with derision by most of those who work for him. In stark contrast, they would see him as a small, chipper man — he claims to be 5ft 6½ins tall — who seems to derive a degree of perverse pleasure in bullying underlings, who is given to outbursts and on occasions being inexplicably rude. He is said to be less than popular, not only among the people he employs, but also among any group of people he might regard as less than his equal. Mention his name to almost anyone who has worked in Fleet Street or fund management and they will probably delight in regaling you with a succession of anti-Stevens tales.

"I suppose my best friends are people who have made it in life," Stevens observes, "because I can see what I would like to achieve in them. It also means that you all have the same sense of striving to achieve something." But that admission aside, and despite the number of near-legendary tales that circulate about him, it is nigh impossible to find anyone who has witnessed the incidents that gave birth to them. That does not mean

they are not true, but that most of those who voice their dislike of him have never — or only fleetingly — met him.

Stevens smiles shyly when told of his reputation. He has heard it all before and he does not deny it categorically. "I don't think I'm a bully," he says, "but I can understand why some people might do. Maybe I look very fierce, severe and standoffish. You can't change these things. If people think I'm unapproachable there's not much I can do about it. Respect and fear are all quite closely related. But I am amazed by what is written about me, the repetitiveness of it all. An awful lot of people do not like me but most of these people have never met me. Those that do know me, like me. The City is a funny place, there's a huge amount of envy and jealousy."

He admits that he has been known to shout at people. "In 30 years of business life of course I have shouted at people from time to time. Have I regretted it? Yes, I have. Usually, it is because something has gone wrong and they haven't told me about it. I do get grumpy sometimes, but I don't have a violent temper. I don't think I've ever thrown anything in my life. I'm told that people are scared of me, but I think I'm like a large pussy cat."

Stevens smiles. His nervous blink begins to subside, the atmosphere begins to warm. He wants to be liked, but it is a want rather than a need. He is an introvert, not a loner. "I'm very self-contained." That introversion is the key to understanding Stevens' unusual personality. It is a key given only to individuals he respects, and even those people who dine with him regularly in his Chelsea home, who play golf with him, who insist that, in their experience, he has never been anything other than charming, humorous and engaging company, admit that they do not fully understand him.

Nicholas Cobbold, a stockbroker turned headhunter, who has known Stevens for 25 years, says: "I know him better than most and certainly regard him as a friend and I am delighted to have him come and stay in my house, but even I have to admit that he is someone you never get to know terribly well."

When Stevens entertains such friends at home, midweek, he has a penchant for elaborate, formal dinner parties, for 12 or 14 people at one time. He is always immaculately dressed by Savile Row tailors and is known to be a stickler for correctness. His shoes will be polished and he will expect you to arrive on time. Everything about him is neat and organised. He continually draws up lists of things that need to be done. "If a lightbulb is missing in the front hall or a plant has died, I will want to know why." That correctness, coupled with his innate reserve, can contrive to present a prickly facade. Even his sense of humour can, at times, be abrasive, sarcastic, and it is often so dry that it is misunderstood. "I suppose my humour can be a bit cynical but you



Lord of all he surveys: Stevens, in his London office examines some of the newspapers under his command

have to laugh at life and yourself, otherwise it all becomes too serious."

In an attempt to understand his unusual perspective on life, some people suggest that it is symptomatic of his height. The small-man syndrome — aggressive, defensive, Stevens would disagree. If he were given a magic wand, would he make himself six inches taller? "No, I would not. I wouldn't alter anything about my body at all." Defensive, certainly, but good humoured too.

Stevens, the second of three sons, born into a semi-detached house in Edgware, Middlesex, and brought up in Stanmore, Northwood, and then Esher, responds well to gentle teasing. He prefers people who stand up to him, rides roughshod over only those who he knows will not, enjoys argument and debate, and is more relaxed in the company of women than men. As a child he was, he says, "introverted. I probably still am. At weekends, from Friday afternoon onwards, I do not go out. At school [Stowe] I was much more serious and more hard working than the others."

He admits that he does not understand what motivates him. "I set my sights on something in the early days and then decided that I wanted more. As school, I decided that I wanted to be the first boy to get a distinction in economics at 'A' level, in the army I wanted to be an officer and at university [Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge] I wanted to get the best degree I possibly could. I worked hard and got a 2:1. You need to be very clever to get a first. Those people who got firsts answered the theoretical questions, I took the more structured and factual ones."

Stevens is confident of his ability but aware of his shortcomings. He is aware that his peerage is linked to his purchase of the Express Group, that it almost went with the job, but it makes him no less proud. He is aware that he has a bad telephone manner. "I am not a great telephonist. I do not sit chatting on the telephone all the time and in business I do not believe in long telephone conversations. If something is going to take more than five minutes to discuss I will call a meeting."

He drives a Rolls-Royce but is otherwise relatively unostentatious. He runs only one house — "I couldn't stand going to the country every weekend. I like living in London" — and he never name-drops. "I am very like my father. He was always very active, always wanting to improve the world, wanting to be involved. I never relax," Stevens paces up and down inside his large office overlooking Blackfriars Bridge, his hands in his trouser pockets. His father, Edwin, 87, the son of a railway guard, won a scholarship to Oxford, became a sound engineer and built up a business manufacturing the first truly portable hearing aids as well as audiometers and ear defenders. He sold out to Racal for £3 million in 1970. His mother, Kathleen — "I don't know her age" — is described as "quite tough, regimented, very disciplined".

When asked again about his motivation, bearing in mind his childhood, Stevens sug-

gests that "perhaps it is because I was the middle son". Did he lack attention? Could that regimented, disciplined environment explain why he still finds it so difficult to show his emotions? "Probably," he says, "but I don't think it's bad to show emotion. I think you should be yourself and people should take you as you are. I make allowances for other people and they should make allowances for me."

Stevens is famed for having had three wives but he is not a promiscuous man. His first wife, Patricia, the mother of his two children, Judith, 28, and Andrew, 26, a trainee banker with Goldman Sachs, left him for another man after ten years of marriage. He remained single for seven years and raised the children on his own. It has made him particularly close to them and his whole manner alters when they are discussed. "Andrew is much more extrovert than I was at his age."

My daughter can be extrovert but is also very happy on her own. She is more of an isolationist." His second wife, Melissa, half Hungarian, died three years ago, after choking on a peach, and he married his third wife, Menza, a Russian, in January 1990. Stevens recalls in vivid detail how he heard his second wife choking, how he tried to resuscitate her, how the ambulance took 25 minutes to arrive and then, how he cried. "They had a particularly happy marriage. She clearly understood his needs. People who observed them together say she paid him compliments constantly, in public, building him up, boosting his ego, and ignoring him as he beseeched her to desist. The need she pandered to, a need exposed only in the privacy of his own home, when that inner guard is finally removed, is a need that would not normally be associated with a domineering, antagonistic man. Instead, it indicates that beneath it all, Stevens is driven by a deep-seated insecurity, afflicted by a shyness and in need of genuine affection."

For all his self-sufficiency, he does not like living alone, and despite all the myths about his objectionable behaviour, he is deeply emotional. The extraordinary public facade he has created — and his contributory behaviour — could be nothing more than a protective crust, carefully contrived to make him appear tougher than he really is, to disguise a personality that, in his eyes, and against a background of that regimented, disciplined childhood, is emotional to a fault. "If I watch a weepy movie I would try to stop myself crying," Stevens admits. "Yes, I would have a lump in my throat, but if you looked in my eyes, you would see the tears."

'You have to laugh at life, otherwise it becomes too serious'

WEEK-ENDING Colin Narbrough

Twilight of the gods dims runes for Sweden's luckless currency

The choice of "Tender is the North" as banner for the Scandinavian arts festival that has overwhelmed London has proved something of a puzzle.

As every British schoolchild ought to know, the Norsemen, the Vikings, were fearsome marauders who pillaged and plundered our coasts. Nor is life in the cold high latitudes likely to make people soft. Surely, the North must mean hard as nails.

This week's star attraction on the foreign exchange stage — The Succumbing of the Swedish Krona to Market Forces — suggests that "Vulnerable is the North" would be an apt title for the saga still unfolding. It was the collapse of the Finnish markka that triggered the last bout of turbulence.

Once upon a time, until Thursday, Carl Bildt, Sweden's fair and youthful prime minister, looked as though he had succeeded in his defence of the market dragon in defence of the krona. He was having to battle with economic adjustment, but his longship was upright and appeared steady on course for the heart of Europe. Sweden aims for full Community membership in 1995.

The ice-cold nerve of Anne Wibble, Mr Bildt's finance minister, and Bengt Dennis, his doughty central bank governor, had, remarkably, allowed Sweden to brave the maelstrom that swept the pound and the lira out of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) and forced a peseta devaluation.

At a time when Britain's economic policy was left in tatters, the Swedes seemed in control, albeit at considerable cost for an economy in its worst recession since the thirties.

Pegging the krona to the ecu had been regarded by the Swedish political classes as a



central plank of a strategic assault on the Community. Mr Bildt, a fervent Europhile, had set his heart on ensuring that the krona was not only a strong currency, but would be a member of the hard core around the German mark.

Such vaulting ambition and near-consensus in the Riksdagen, earlier in the Autumn, enabled Sweden to take draconian steps. Raising marginal interest rates to 500 per cent made the most hardened City dealers catch their breath. Accompanying measures that savaged public spending and welfare, while reducing industry's costs dramatically, caused many a Swede to gasp too.

But the calm that followed the storms of September was only a lull. For all the efforts to

attack the public-sector deficit at a time of record unemployment, the markets still harboured doubts about Sweden's fixed exchange-rate policy. Renewed nervousness about government borrowing unleashed the unstoppable attack on the krona this week.

Where two months ago, the political runes were right for defending the krona, that was not the case this week. The main opposition party, the Social Democrats, had lost the taste for the fight. After some 160 billion krona had left the country within a week, the central bank on Thursday morning shook its interest rate stick at the market, hiking the key marginal rate to 20 per cent from 11.5 per

cent. To no avail. The krona had been pegged to the ecu in May 1991.

In a virtual replay of Norman Lamont's to-ing and fro-ing on Black Wednesday, the interest rate decision was reversed by the afternoon, and the krona allowed to float freely. It dropped 8 per cent, but there is scope for a further fall.

Mr Bildt and Mrs Wibble admitted, with apparent sorrow, that the national attempt to maintain the krona's external value had failed. But they underlined that the government had done everything it could to stick to the hard krona policy. Mr Bildt, like our own prime minister, gave firm assurances that keeping inflation down remained the central goal, along with growth and employment.

Ever the realist, Mr Dennis has made clear that the decision to float the krona was ultimately a simple affair. "The possibility of succeeding was too little, so we gave up." But he would insist that there had been no devaluation, merely a flotation. Semantics might comfort a central banker, but they leave the currency markets unimpressed.

What will now happen to the array of measures, still to go before the Riksdagen, to cut social pay, unemployment benefits, injury benefits, reduce tax deductions and raise individuals' pension contributions? Will the Social Democrats be ready to play along with Mr Bildt's centre-right coalition any longer on further cuts in payroll taxes? Opinion in Sweden is divided.

Yet, the saga has a happy ending. From faraway Frankfurt, Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president and Europe's monetary grand vizier, gave the Swedish move his qualified blessing. "Floating a currency for a short time can contribute to finding a new equilibrium..."

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 1992

Tax claimants need better deal

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR



If you make the system for claiming back overpaid tax complicated enough, then few will use it, and the exchequer ends up with a windfall. The government probably did not plan to gain hundreds of millions of pounds when it reformed the taxation of savings, but it has.

Last year, composite rate tax was scrapped and replaced with basic rate tax on savings. This meant that taxpayers paid more automatically and non-taxpayers had either to declare themselves as such for every account they hold or claim back any overpaid tax later on.

While the Revenue may have been most concerned to make the system fraud-proof, many savers were too frightened of having dealings with any tax office and millions have not registered to receive interest gross.

Those less fearful have been angry about the way the new system works to exclude them from gross payment on savings that are below the tax threshold because they have other income which is above it. Only those whose income is totally under their

tax allowances can register their accounts. Others have to claim back overpaid tax and it can take more than a year to get the money.

Pensioners in particular have been affected by the intransigence of the system for taxing the declining interest on their savings. Many have some income which is below the limit and some above. Those whose total income takes them just above the tax threshold have to have tax deducted on their savings interest and then reclaim. Those who have hundreds of pounds to reclaim are annoyed by the delays. It is not a system for the careless either, as the Revenue needs statements of tax deducted on all accounts before the money can be reclaimed.

Those who have only a small amount to claim back never seem to get round to it. But it is not surprising as they have to wait until the end of the tax year when the

interest was earned and then claim it back. Tax on an interest payment in June cannot be claimed back until the following April if the tax to be reclaimed is under £50.

Those well below the tax threshold can comfortably sign a declaration that they are non-taxpayers and their bank or building society is then able to pay them gross. Parents have a more confusing time because they have to be sure that no more than £100 of the interest earned by a child comes from each parent. Many of those whose income fluctuates, or is near the limit, are frightened to

declare in case their income rises and they are thought to have deliberately tried to defraud the Revenue.

There is little chance of that now that every interest payment on bank and building society accounts is reported to the Revenue. If the government really wants poorer savers to pay less tax it needs to make it easier for them to get their money back. This week it has decided to close 19 of the 24 centres created to pay refunds.

Let us hope this action will be accompanied by a new system that

will allow those who are just taxpayers to declare one account a tax-free zone and to make sure it keeps below the limit and sign an agreement that, if it does not, they will pay any underpaid tax with interest. It would help millions of pensioners who are already alarmed about the low return they get on their savings.

Bailiffs

Bailiffs are one of the growth professions during the recession but there is no one authority to control their actions. This week the National Consumer Council expressed its concern about the activities of both private and certificated bailiffs employed to collect poll tax and the council tax.

It says bailiffs should only be able to effect forcible entry into domestic premises with a warrant. People

who never thought they would be reduced to such circumstances are coming into contact with bailiffs and their work methods. It would help if rules were laid down and clearly understood.

One homeowner rang me from work recently to ask if bailiffs could evict him and change the locks when he was not there. The courts had not even granted possession at that time but the letters he had received were enough to frighten him.

Debts can increase once the bailiffs' charges are included and items seized are often sold for knock-down prices. The council would like to see fixed fees for bailiffs. Families should also be told that certain items will not be seized. These should include clothing needed by the debtor and members of the family, children's toys, medical aids and equipment for the care of children, tools for their trade and books needed for their work, education or training up to a value of £500. There are many reputable bailiffs who are bound to welcome any suggestions that will bring the cowboys to order.

Householders in high-risk areas could have claims rejected unless specified door and window locks are fitted

Insurers tighten security rules for homes cover

By SARA MCCONNELL

From January next year, thousands of Sun Alliance customers with inner-city postcodes who renew their contents insurance will be told that their claims will not be met unless door and window locks are fitted and used. This will be the first time Sun Alliance has endorsed existing customers' policies in this way.

The largest household insurer said that by the end of next year, about 5 per cent of its existing customers would have their policies endorsed in this way. A further 5 per cent of new customers are also having to take extra security measures to get cover. It could cost several hundred pounds to get security up to the required minimum.

Other insurers are considering endorsing the policies of existing customers when they renew their cover. New customers in high risk areas have had their policies endorsed in this way for some time. Brokers are advising people to read their renewal notice carefully to see if it has been endorsed.

New policyholders in high-risk areas who take out cover with Norwich Union have had to meet minimum security requirements since July. The company said this week that these requirements could be extended to existing policyholders whose postcodes indicated to insurers that they lived in areas with high theft rates.

Areas designated high-risk by Norwich Union include all Southeast London postcodes, most of Southwest London and large areas of Glasgow, Liverpool and Birmingham. The company tells new policyholders in these areas that front doors should be fitted with mortice deadlocks; patio doors and accessible windows have to be fitted with key-operated window locks.

People moving house and

filling in new proposal forms or changing insurers are also having policies endorsed in this way. Last year, 20 per cent of new policies with Royal Insurance were so endorsed. This year, 60 per cent have to comply with the minimum security requirement. "People who continue to act in a careless fashion deserve harder and harsher treatment," Royal said. Ray Facer, Legal & General's household underwriting manager, said that if the risk in a locality changed, premium rates would be increased but existing policyholders would not be asked to take extra security measures. That would, however, be required of new customers.

Residents of high-risk areas have also faced the biggest rises in premiums and this is likely to continue. They have little hope of obtaining discounts for extra security measures. Even those who can get discounts or take advantage of no-claims bonuses offered by some companies will see them eaten away by larger rises in premiums.

General Accident announced this week that it was expanding its household in-

cent. Other insurers, including Norwich Union and Commercial Union, offer discounts of about 5 per cent to members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes. However, Norwich Union's premiums have gone up by an average of 30 per cent on its Contents Plus policy and up to 16 per cent on its Contents Home Plus policy. It has introduced a loyalty bonus of 10 per cent for customers who stay with the company for more than three years, cutting some people's premiums by 7 per cent.

Commercial Union's Key Plan policyholders have found that 5 per cent discounts for membership of Neighbourhood Watch schemes or 15 per cent discounts for fitting burglar alarms have been eaten up by increases averaging 40 per cent since the end of last year.

Sun Alliance includes Neighbourhood Watch membership as one of several security precautions that qualify for discounts of up to 20 per cent, but premiums have risen by 30 to 35 per cent on some policies. Membership has to be coupled with the fitting of

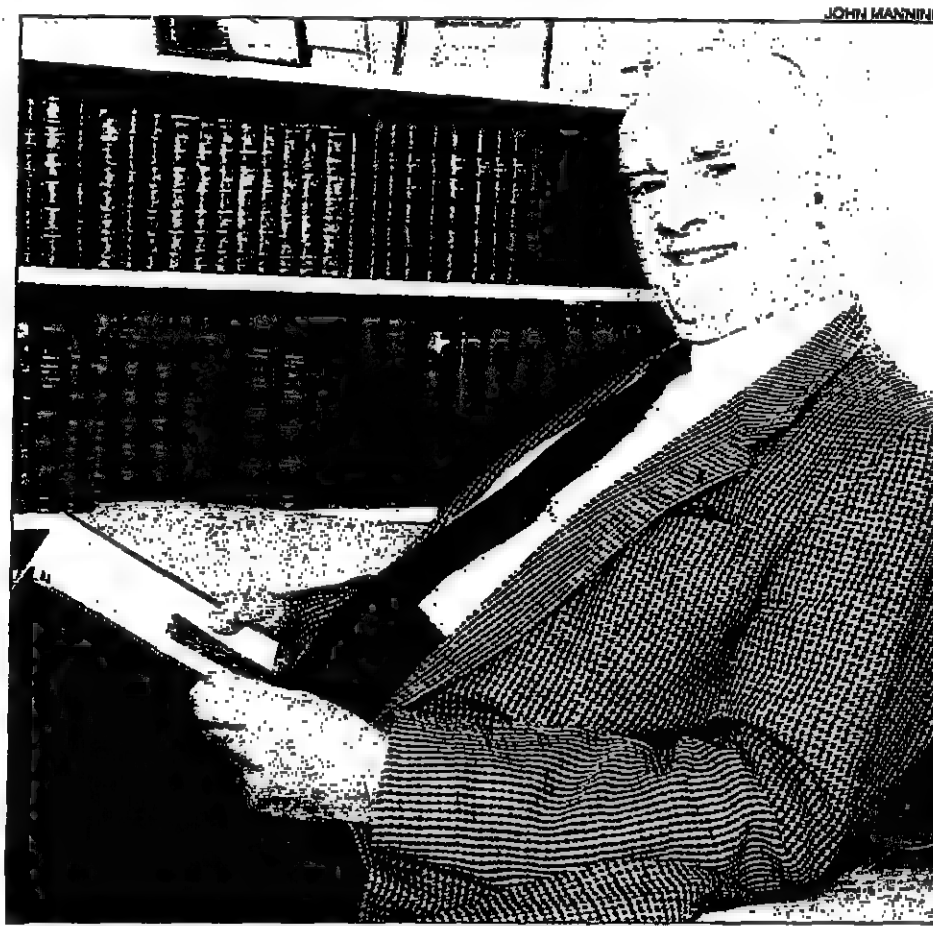
'People who act carelessly deserve harder and harsher treatment'

insurance scheme for Neighbourhood Watch members after a successful five-year pilot scheme in London. Policyholders, who have to be in a registered Neighbourhood Watch scheme to qualify, have saved up to 40 per cent, the company said.

But Mike Amphlett, GA's schemes manager in charge of underwriting the Neighbourhood Watch policy, said the premiums of some policyholders in high-risk areas had doubled in 12 months. The average rise had been 25 per

suitable locks and bolts to qualify for a discount, said Steve Turner, Sun Alliance's superintendent, household.

Like Sun Alliance, GA sees membership of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme as "only half the story". Members tended to be more aware of the need for home security, which made them a better risk for insurers and enabled them to cut premiums. Mr Amphlett said. The pilot scheme had led to a cut in burglary claims. People wanting to insure homes with General Accident



Prudence pays: Neighbourhood Watch saved Peter Loyd £400 a year on contents cover

must have their security precautions inspected by one of the company's 12 brokers selling the policy. Minimum requirements include five-lever mortice or British Standard 3621 locks on main doors and all other external doors, and key-operated security locks on all accessible windows. If these are not already fitted, they will have to be before applications for cover are accepted.

GA loses £40 million through domestic theft every year. The total cost of theft claims for the insurance industry as a whole in the first half of 1992 was £396.2 million, according to figures from the Association of British Insurers. That compares with a total of £590.7 million for the whole of 1991. The average cost of a claim has gone up from £792 to £888.

The findings of a survey released by GA showed that almost one in 12 people had been burgled in the past year and almost half knew someone who had been. Two thirds of those surveyed said they were more worried about crime today than they were five years ago.

Keeping a watch on premium costs

PETER Loyd has saved about £400 a year on the contents insurance for his home in Hampstead Garden Suburb since he started participating in a General Accident pilot scheme to cut the cost of premiums for Neighbourhood Watch members (Sara McConnell writes).

Mr Loyd first heard of the scheme when he received a circular three years ago from an insurance broker. As area co-ordinator for 50 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Northwest London, he felt he should investigate.

He said: "Frankly the publicity material was not that impressive. It looked like it had been done on a duplicator. I was slightly distrustful. But I felt I had to vet it. Otherwise if something had been wrong with it and people took the insurance, I would have had the wrath of everyone upon me."

Satisfied on his members' behalf, he asked the broker, Brownhill Morris and West, of Beckenham, Kent, to give him a quotation for his own contents insurance under

General Accident's Neighbourhood Watch Home Insurance policy.

As with other prospective policyholders, Mr Loyd's home was inspected by a Brownhill house surveyor to check that it satisfied security requirements. To qualify for the cheaper cover, householders have to fit specified door and window locks and have them checked. It is not enough just to be a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

In March, 1989, when he paid his first premium, the cost was £552.30 compared with the £1,000 premium demanded by Royal, his existing insurer. Since then, he has built up a no-claims bonus of 25 per cent, reducing his present premium by £219 to £657, based on £55,520 of cover.

In December, 1989, Mr Loyd also put his buildings insurance with General Accident. He lost his no-claims bonus because he had a subsidence claim, but this did not affect his contents no-claims record.

M&G EUROPEAN & GENERAL RECORD

Year ended 31st December	£1,000 Lump Sum		£40 a month	
	Building Society	M&G European & General	Building Society	M&G European & General
24 July 1972	£1,000	£1,000	£40	£40
1972	1,020	958	200	189
1973	1,088	978	680	616
1974	1,171	698	1,160	804
1975	1,257	944	1,640	1,606
1976	1,347	878	2,120	1,923
1977	1,443	952	2,600	2,555
1978	1,537	1,028	3,080	3,227
1979	1,670	1,202	3,560	4,272
1980	1,847	1,364	4,040	5,321
1981	2,021	1,328	4,520	5,628
1982	2,203	1,506	5,000	6,893
1983	2,366	1,918	5,480	9,272
1984	2,552	2,346	5,960	11,839
1985	2,779	3,528	6,440	18,407
1986	2,999	5,724	6,920	30,437
1987	3,231	4,672	7,400	25,201
1988	3,462	5,532	7,880	30,332
1989	3,789	8,570	8,360	47,564
1990	4,198	7,090	8,840	39,744
1991	4,552	7,472	9,320	42,327
30 Oct 1992	4,816*	8,430	9,720	48,155

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G European & General figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). The regular savings figures exclude the last payment and all payments apart from the first are made on the last business day of the month. An investment in M&G European & General of £1,000 on 30th October, 1987 would be worth £1,529 by 30th October, 1992. An investment of £40 a month from 30th October, 1987 (£2,400) would be worth £2,814 by 30th October, 1992 with net income re-invested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

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UNIT TRUSTS · SAVINGS PLANS

Bedroom policies double in price

By SARA MCCONNELL

PREMIUMS on contents insurance policies related to the number of bedrooms in a home — bought because they cut bills for those with more expensive possessions — have risen twice as fast as those on other contents policies. In some cases, the cost of insurance has more than doubled in the past 12 months.

Bedroom-rated policies were introduced by most leading insurers about four years ago. They were meant to be simpler than traditional policies, as householders had to tell the insurer only their postcode and how many bedrooms they had to have a premium calculated. Usually, the policies have an upper limit of between £30,000 and £50,000 worth of cover.

Traditional policies require householders to calculate how much their home contents would cost to replace so the premium can be worked out. Insurers admit that they have seriously underestimated the cost of bedroom policies and have set premiums too low to cover their costs. Ray Facer, household underwrit-



Risk under-estimated: bedroom rates have soared

ing manager at Legal & General, said: "The premiums should have been higher. When we calculate the premiums on the number of rooms, we go for what is considered to be an average. There are winners and losers and those with above average risk did not pay enough premium to cover it." Legal & General has raised premiums on its bedroom-

rated policy by more than 50 per cent on average over the past 12 months. In some cases, the premium would have almost doubled, Mr Facer said. The cost of a traditional policy has gone up by more than 25 per cent on average.

Steve Turner, superintendent, household at Sun Alliance, said that premium increases on bedroom-rated

policies averaged between 30 and 35 per cent, with further increases likely. "The market underestimated how much premium was required," he said. Bedroom-rated policies tended to attract those whose possessions would cost close to the insurer's upper limit (in Sun Alliance's case up to £30,000) to replace, Mr Turner said.

Eagle Star has also seen sharp increases, of 50 per cent on average on its Homestar Ideal bedroom-rated policy. Some people will face a 100 per cent increase when they renew their policies, the company said.

Bedroom-based policies at Commercial Union now cost 40 per cent more than they did this time last year. The exception to the rule appears to be Royal Insurance, which reports a less substantial increase than the others, 28 per cent.

"We use the postcode, the kind of house, the age of the house and the age of the policyholder in assessing the risk," the company said. Traditional policies have gone up by an average of 20 per cent.

مكتبات الأصل

Unit trusts seek greater Pep role

THE unit trust industry is seeking further relaxation of the personal equity plan rules. In an early Budget submission, the Unit Trust Association has called on Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to allow gilt-edged stocks and corporate bonds as part of a Pep portfolio.

Since last April the full £6,000 Pep allowance can be put into unit trusts that invest at least 51 per cent of their

funds in UK- or EC-based equities. Those with 49 per cent of their assets in gilts or bonds lose their status.

This means those with much lower percentages in gilts and bonds are also ruled out because market fluctuations can change the balance by a few percentage points.

Peps have been the saviour of the industry. In the last two quarters there was a net inflow of £655 million, mostly shelter-

ed from tax in Peps. The association is keen to shelter other unit trusts from tax by trying to have cash unit trusts accepted as tax-exempt special savings accounts. These allow £9,000 to be invested tax-free over five years, as long as there is no withdrawal of capital during the period. Unit trusts cannot offer this tax advantage. Nor can non-taxpayers register unit trusts for gross payment of interest.

Home buyers face life policy blow

BY SARA MCCONNELL

FIRST-TIME buyers with no dependants wanting a repayment mortgage may be forced to buy life insurance in case the value of their home falls, if a big insurer has its way.

Mortgage lenders are being told they may have to require customers needing indemnity cover to take out a life policy as well. Indemnity insurance is taken out by a homebuyer to cover lenders against loss if homebuyers default or die and there is a shortfall.

Insurers and building societies are fighting a tough battle over mortgage indemnity insurance conditions, after huge losses by insurers as the level of repossessions rose. Lenders say insurers are hedging contracts with restrictions so they will not have to pay out. Societies have already agreed to stand 20 per cent of losses if the cover has to pay out. The more restrictive the conditions imposed on societies, the greater danger of a shortage of 90 and 95 per cent loans.

Commercial Union, one of the insurers considering imposing a life cover requirement, said the clause was part

of a draft that had not yet been agreed with any building society. Societies would only have to ensure borrowers had life insurance if they wanted cover in case a borrower died rather than defaulted and there was a shortfall when the property was sold, CU said. Cashing in such a policy would then pay off the mortgage.

"In view of the obvious difficulties with the housing market it is not an unreasonable condition. It is for building societies to negotiate individually," CU said.

The Skipton Building Soci-

couldn't justify insisting that a single person insured their life to cover their mortgage. We are lending on the security of the property," it would be "morally wrong" of the society to insist, he said.

Forcing buyers to take out insurance they do not need could also be contrary to building societies' duty to give best advice on investments under the Financial Services Act, Mr Scotter said. Some sorts of life cover, including convertible term assurance, which can be converted to an endowment, are investments

'We couldn't justify insisting a single person insured their life to cover their mortgage'

ety, one of a number of societies negotiating with the CU on mortgage indemnity insurance, said it may not be able to offer loans of more than 75 per cent of the property's value if this meant having to sell insurance unnecessarily.

Alan Scotter, the Skipton's general manager said: "We

under the act, although level-term assurance is not. Endowments are investments under the act.

Borrowers with endowment mortgages could also find their policies have to be assigned to the lender, if a connected clause in CU's contract is pushed through. Most lenders, in-



Insurance factor: Rod Young of the Legal & General

cluding the Halifax and the Abbey National, the two largest, no longer assign endowments, preferring to trust borrowers to pay the premiums rather than handle the extra administration. If an endowment is assigned, the lender controls the policy and benefits from the payout. It cannot be sold or surrendered and societies are told if borrowers lapse on their premiums.

Abbey, which is also negotiating with CU on mortgage indemnity cover, has told CU it "does not consider it necessary" to assign policies as the CU wants. The Abbey is awaiting CU's response to its

suggestion that it be allowed to use its own criteria.

Other mortgage indemnity insurers say they are not insisting on either life cover for repayment mortgages or assignment of endowment policies, although the thinking behind CU's move was "understandable". But Rod Young, personal insurance director at Legal & General said having life cover on a mortgage "could be a factor in the pricing of mortgage indemnity". Lenders, and therefore borrowers who pay the premiums, could find indemnity insurance cheaper if loans had insurance, he said.

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CGT ALLOWANCE, OCTOBER 1992

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in October 1992.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.693	0.611	0.534	0.454	0.359
February	—	0.686	0.604	0.522	0.448	0.359
March	0.781	0.683	0.599	0.508	0.446	0.391
April	0.726	0.680	0.578	0.478	0.432	0.374
May	0.714	0.653	0.572	0.468	0.430	0.378
June	0.709	0.648	0.568	0.466	0.431	0.373
July	0.708	0.640	0.570	0.469	0.435	0.374
August	0.708	0.633	0.556	0.465	0.430	0.370
September	0.709	0.628	0.552	0.466	0.428	0.366
October	0.701	0.620	0.543	0.464	0.421	0.360
November	0.692	0.614	0.538	0.469	0.408	0.353
December	0.696	0.610	0.539	0.457	0.404	0.354
1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		
January	0.954	0.280	0.171	0.075	0.082	
February	0.949	0.251	0.164	0.068	0.086	
March	0.944	0.246	0.152	0.065	0.083	
April	0.922	0.224	0.118	0.051	0.068	
May	0.917	0.217	0.109	0.048	0.064	
June	0.912	0.212	0.104	0.043	0.064	
July	0.911	0.211	0.103	0.048	0.068	
August	0.927	0.208	0.092	0.043	0.067	
September	0.927	0.200	0.082	0.039	0.064	
October	0.928	0.191	0.074	0.036	0.061	
November	0.922	0.181	0.076	0.032	0.057	
December	0.928	0.178	0.077	0.031	0.057	

The first month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

Investor confidence increased by 3.3 points during the last month according to Pearl's investor confidence index. The older generation are more confident while younger age groups have lost confidence. Tax exempt special savings accounts are the most popular form of investment and the over 65s favour National Savings.

□ Savings of up to £500 are available to Leeds Visa card holders who use the card to book a foreign holiday through a new link between the building society and Page & Moy, the travel agent.

□ The Birmingham Midshires Building Society has a postal savings account which guarantees rates over 10 per cent gross until March 1993. First Class Plus pays 9.55 per cent on £10,000 and also guarantees an extra 0.5 per cent on the anniversary of the investment if funds have been untouched. Over £100,000

the rate is 10.05 per cent gross until March. Thirty days notice is needed for withdrawals and there is still seven days loss of interest.

□ Chaffeurplan has produced a free guide, *The A-Z of Motoring Law*, which is available from the company at 17a Curzon Street, London W1Y 8AQ or by telephoning 071 493 3141.

□ NM Financial Management has launched a cash unit trust which requires a minimum of £500 but should pay the rate that usually only larger investments qualify for. There is no initial charge or penalties on withdrawal.

□ Schroders has two new information services for private investors. *Insight* is a monthly publication which will track the progress of the main stock markets and the ClientLine, which is free, will answer questions from investors on 0800 526535.

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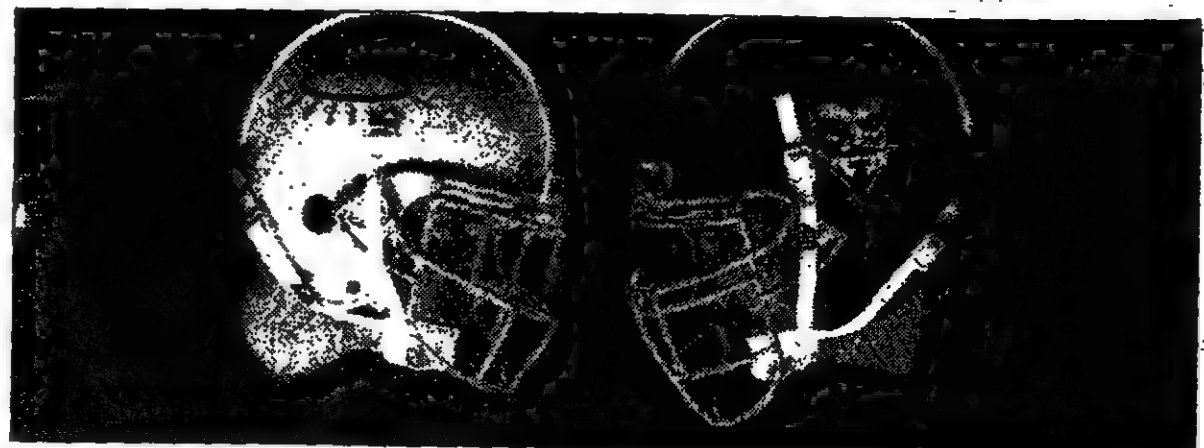
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Lenders offer a fixed port after rate storms

Homeowners may have the chance to remortgage at attractive fixed rates of interest, says Lindsay Cook

TANTALISINGLY good fixed rates, and discounts for new borrowers, are tempting mortgage payers who want certainty to remortgage. Many people who are paying 9.25 per cent and already know that this is to be reduced to 8.5 per cent, may be prepared to take a gamble on variable rates coming down further.

Others, who were out of their depth when rates reached 15 per cent, may want to build some certainty into their lives with fixed-rate mortgages now that special offers are cheaper than they have been for more than 25 years. The most wretched homeowners are probably those still paying 11.45 per cent or higher on mortgages with centralised lenders, and who have seen the values of their properties fall below the size of their mortgages. They cannot remortgage and if their lenders will not cut rates, they are helpless.

The centralised lenders entered the mortgage market offering attractive interest rates from 1986, when there was tremendous competition to fund house purchase in what seemed like an ever-rising market. A large chunk of this year's mortgage business has been remortgages, especially for fixed rates. Most homeowners cannot find new properties, get their offers accepted and go through the whole legal process in time to meet deadlines for special offers.

At the Household Mortgage Corporation, borrowers on the standard rate have a promise that payments will come down to 9.95 per cent in January but they still have no idea when last week's bank base rate reduction will be taken into account. Mortgage Express, the



centralised lender which is part of TSB, currently charges borrowers 10.9 per cent, early in November, it announced that this would be reduced to 9.95 per cent on January 4. Mortgage Express has still to take account of the latest base rate cut.

The Mortgage Corporation has a standard mortgage rate of 10.99 per cent. This week it told borrowers that that would go down to 9.5 per cent from January 1. This cut does not take account of the Autumn

street banks because of the way it is funded. The lender has a series of funding agreements, many of which are linked to the three-month London interbank offered rate. Some of these will have been taken out up to three months ago and reflect the higher rates then, a spokesman explained. While building societies say many of their remortgages come from centralised lenders, HMC says its redemption figures have fallen in the past

gates to move. But they still can face bills of £1,000 or more for the paperwork involved. Abbey National this week launched a remortgage package offering £250 towards legal and valuation costs.

On a £100,000 loan which is 85 per cent of the value of the property, the solicitors' fees would typically be £200 and the valuation about £160. In addition, there would be land registry fees in the region of £200, local search fees of about £50 and indemnity insurance of £500. The insurance is charged on loans over 75 per cent of the value of the property to cover the lender should the borrower default on the loan.

New customers have to complete by the end of May to qualify for the £250. It is available for all kinds of mortgages. Those who want long fixed rates could look to the Leeds Permanent, which offers 7.95 per cent over five years. This has a £195 arrangement fee and borrowers must take out either buildings and contents insurance or a new life policy. The Halifax offers a rate capped at 9.29 per cent until the year 2000.

Those who are stuck in 13 per cent fixed-rate mortgages, attractive in 1990, could face redemption fees of three months' interest

Statement cut. "We are still monitoring the situation on that," a spokesman said.

Some borrowers did not take out loans with their current lenders but were "sold" to them by their original ones when these withdrew from the British mortgage market.

The Household Mortgage Corporation explained that its rates lagged behind those of building societies and high

two months. Inertia, and fear of the cost, stops many borrowers from changing lenders.

Those who are stuck in fixed-rate mortgages of 13 per cent or more, which seemed attractive back in 1990, could face redemption fees of three months' gross interest if they move their loans. In addition, there are legal and valuation costs.

It is cheaper for borrowers with standard, variable mort-

Credit card rates will be cheapest for 15 years

By Lindsay Cook

CREDIT card rates are on the way down. This week witnessed substantial reductions after the industry had previously only trimmed rates and balanced any reduction with higher annual charges.

Barclaycard is cutting its annual percentage rate to 22.9 per cent in January. This follows a reduction from 28.5

per cent to 24.9 per cent at the beginning of November, criticism from consumer groups and the prime minister's encouragement to lenders to reduce their rates.

The new interest rate is the cheapest for 15 years. In that time, however, Barclaycard has started charging borrowers from the date an item reached their account rather than the statement date.

In recent years the bank's

highest rate was 29.8 per cent from July 1989. This was reduced in May 1990.

Lloyds Bank has also signalled its second cut in a few weeks and will cut its interest rate to an APR of 24.6 per cent from November 30. Its last cut was to 25.3 per cent on October 12.

Midland is cutting its credit card rate to 25.3 per cent from December. This rate was fixed before the latest reduction in bank base rates and more cuts could follow.

National Westminster cut its credit card rate to 25.4 per cent on both its Access and Visa cards from Monday, although the announcement was made before the latest base rate cut.

Save & Prosper's rates fall to 22.6 per cent for its card with an annual fee and to 23.1 per cent for its no-fee card.

The Co-operative Bank will be one of the last banks to

introduce an annual charge when it brings in a £12 fee from January 1. Its interest rate will be reduced to 23.9 per cent.

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Liz Dolan finds that charity work can become expensive as trustees become personally liable for debts

PEOPLE who offer their services as charity trustees are often unaware they could end up in financial difficulties, or even bankruptcy, if the charity runs into trouble.

Tougher regulations laid down in the new Charities Act 1992 mean trustees are now burdened with responsibilities more legally exacting than those placed on company directors, according to a guidebook published this week by Kingsley Napley, the firm of solicitors led by Sir David Napley, the defence lawyer.

Most trustees do not know that while they give their services free, they could be personally liable if a charity incurs debts, or breaks a contract with a third party, says Tony Sacker, charities partner. His warning follows findings by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations that two-thirds of trustees in England and Wales do not even know they are trustees. People with titles such as committee member, governor, council member and director are not told they share the same responsibilities as official trustees.

The survey also discovered

that between a half and two-thirds of the country's 1 million trustees do not receive any information about the nature of responsibilities. Only one in eight receives training for their work as trustees, and four in five get no training whatsoever, the report says.

One charity whose trustees are well briefed is Charity Projects, which runs Comic Relief's annual red nose day. Jane Tewson, director, says all trustees, including Lenny Henry, the comedian, are fully aware of their "quite extraordinary responsibilities".

The next red nose day is March 12. Kingsley Napley's booklet, *A Question of Trust*, describes the role of trustee as "one of the most onerous obligations under English law". Mr Sacker says that while trustees were always theoretically liable for a charity's debts, the recession had exacerbated the likelihood of creditors taking up their legal rights. "In the past, third parties tended to say, 'Oh well, it's a charity. They've done their best. Now, they're more likely to look at the small print,'" he said. "He said one of his clients was fighting a claim for



He knows: Lenny Henry takes his Comic Relief red nose day responsibilities seriously

money" from a bank which had discovered a loan made to a charity was now worth substantially more than the assets on which it had been secured.

The new regulations will actively enforce previous, rather loosely-policed, requirements that trustees of registered charities with an annual income of more than £1,000 must ensure the accounts are audited annually and sent to the Charity Commission within ten months of the year-end. In addition, trustees must help to prepare estimates of how much income the charity can expect each year and how much it can afford to spend.

Balancing the books in a recession is especially difficult. Falling property prices are another headache as money borrowed against a charity's assets may become unsecured as values shrink.

The booklet gives various examples of how charities can fall foul of the many and complex laws governing them. For instance, boosting income at a charitable event by selling alcohol can lead to the loss of a charity's tax relief. Organisations can also lose their charitable status if they spend too much on campaigning rather than directly on the cause they back. Loss of tax relief equals breach of trust, the book says. Mr Sacker

countered problems. A *Question of Trust* suggests prospective trustees follow a six-point checklist before signing up.

Check the status of the charity.

Ask co-trustees if they are following the charity's purposes as laid down in the governing documents.

Note the charity's liabilities and ensure they are covered by sufficient assets, particularly in the light of personal risk to trustees.

Examine the accounts. Ensure income is fully spent, as accumulated income could lead to loss of charitable status.

Ensure investments are properly managed and periodically reviewed.

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The booklet is free from Kingsley Napley on 071-240 2411.

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Ordinary Dep A/c	0.98	0.98	0.98	1.00	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits						
Barclays	4.50	4.50	4.50	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
BSA	4.50	4.50	4.50	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	3.70	3.70	3.70	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
Yorkshire	3.98	3.98	3.98	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
Midland	4.50	4.50	4.50	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 529555
Wales	4.75	4.75	4.75	10,000-no max	3 mth	0742 529555
Wales	4.52	4.52	4.52	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-728 1100
Wales	4.52	4.52	4.52	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-728 1100

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Bank of Scotland	4.00	4.10	4.00	2,000	none	081-442 7777
Barclays	3.50	3.45	3.74	2,000	none	0604 282891
Co-operative	0.38	0.38	0.38	2,000	none	071 626 1543
Ulster	0.40	0.54	0.43	2,000	none	0200 655894
Lloyds WCA	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,000	none	0272 433372
Midland WCA	2.05	2.05	1.85	2,000	none	0742 529555
Special Reserve	1.80	1.81	1.81	2,000	none	0800 200 400
Royal Bank of Scotland	3.00	3.00	3.48	2,000	none	091-885 8855
TSB Bank	2.81	2.81	2.85	2,000	none	071-600 6000

Bank	Monthly rate	Compounded at 25% p.a.	Monthly rate	Monthly rate	Notice	Contact
Ordinary Share	1.75	1.75	1.75	1+	none	
Best buy - largest size						
Barclays	7.13	7.13	6.70	5,000 min	Postal	
Northern Rock	7.80	7.80	6.00	50,000 min	Postal	
Barclays & West	5.78	5.78	4.82	50,000 min	30 day	
Yorkshire	5.15	5.15	5.44	50,000 min	30 day	
Barclays & West	7.05	7.05	5.84	25,000 min	1 year	
Best buy - all sizes						
Northern Rock	7.91	7.91	5.25	10,000 min	Postal	
Barclays	6.78	6.78	6.40	50,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	6.78	6.78	6.40	50,000 min	30 day	
Barclays & West	7.04	7.04	5.78	50,000 min	30 day	
Barclays & West	7.04	7.04	5.44	25,000 min	1 year	

Bank	Monthly rate	Compounded at 25% p.a.	Monthly rate	Monthly rate	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	5.50	5.75	5.00	5-10,000	9 day	041-846-4555
Investment A/c	7.25	5.44	4.95	5-25,000	1 mth	041-846-4555
Income Bond	8.00	6.60	4.80	5,000-50,000	3 mth	0253 66191
First City Growth	8.50	6.60	5.20	1,000-250,000	1 mth	041-846-4555
40th Income Cert	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-5,000	8 day	041-386 4900
Yearly Plan	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/min	14 day	041-386 4900
Child's Bonds	7.85	7.85	7.85	100-100,000	8 day	041-846-4555
Guaranteed Bonds	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-100,000	8 day	041-846-4555

Bank	Monthly rate	Compounded at 25% p.a.	Monthly rate	Monthly rate	Notice	Contact
Prudential	5.50	5.50	5.50	35,000 min	1 yr	Figures from 1991
Prudential	5.50	5.50	5.50	35,000 min	2 yr	Figures from 1991
Prudential	5.50	5.50	5.50	35,000 min	3 yr	Figures from 1991
Prudential	5.50	5.50	5.50	35,000 min	4 yr	Figures from 1991
Prudential	5.50	5.50	5.50	35,000 min	5 yr	Figures from 1991

Bank	Monthly rate	Compounded at 25% p.a.	Monthly rate	Monthly rate	Notice	Contact
TESA	5.75	5.75	5.75	50 days less int	025	0953 646001
Midland	5.80	5.80	5.80	60 days less int	025	0972 742211
Thames & City	5.50	5.50	5.50	230+ 7 days notice	01	01 5872501
Yorkshire	5.80	5.80	5.80	230+ 7 days notice	01	01 5872501
Cheshire	5.40	5.40	5.40	230+ 7 days notice	01	01 5872501

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

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TSB's ready-reckoner finds the underinsured

TSB believes 62% of people have life insurance that is inadequate to maintain lifestyles, says Liz Dolan

TWO in five people believe they have adequate life insurance cover when they do not, according to the results of a survey from TSB.

The bank calculates that more than 62 per cent of the population is under-insured by an average of more than £90,000. However, it says, only 18 per cent of those questioned considered themselves inadequately covered for their needs.

TSB claims that the average annual income necessary to fund the respondents' present living standards is £13,951.20. An average lump sum payout of at least ten times this, £139,512, is required to provide this level of income, the bank says. However, the average level of cover was less than £49,000, a shortfall of £90,500.

Assessed on this basis, family breadwinners are under-insured by an average of £83,462, parents caring for children by £104,578, and borrowers with unprotected loans by £128,620.

To help people to work out their insurance needs, the bank has devised a "life cover ready-reckoner", which enables customers to balance likely outgoings against existing income provisions, after



the death of a family income provider, to find the sums required to maintain existing lifestyles.

Despite inadequate cover, most people questioned were too pessimistic about how long they were likely to live, the survey found.

Asked to estimate how many healthy men aged 20 to 40 would die before 65, they guessed at 28 in every 100, compared with the actual figure of about 20. Estimates of the likely cost of additional cover were also wildly out.

TSB charges £20 a month for £100,000 of cover over ten years for a 29-year-old man who does not smoke. The

average monthly premium guessed by the sample was £49.50. Conversely, the average monthly cost of the same cover for a man of 54 was thought to be £78.61; TSB actually charges £109.

Non-smoking 29-year-olds will be even more surprised by the monthly premiums charged for similar cover by either General Accident (£14.80) or Legal & General (£15.40). Men of 54 would have to pay £89.10 and £108.30, respectively.

Legal & General offers a similar checklist to that of TSB to help customers to calculate required cover. It comes as part of a free booklet, *Your*

Protection Review, that may be obtained by calling 0737 374449.

The booklet carries encouraging snippets of information, such as the fact that 1,500 people die each day, depriving 448 wives of husbands, and 170 children of fathers.

At least 16 are married women under 50, a point that becomes particularly relevant when taken in conjunction with the findings of L&G's latest "cost of a wife" survey, due out in a few weeks.

This report will claim that the average wife (or unmarried equivalent) who dies before the children reach 18, costs £349 a week to replace.

MoD moves to help service personnel save for housing

By Sara McConnell

FULL-TIME members of the armed forces who have served for at least three years are being encouraged to save towards the cost of buying their own home under a scheme announced by the Ministry of Defence yesterday. It was set up in response to concern that those returning from overseas service could no longer rely on being rehoused by local authorities.

Four financial institutions, the Norwich and Peterborough and the Skipton building societies, Garmore Money Management and the Bank of Scotland have been chosen by the MoD to administer the scheme. All are offering gross rates guaranteed to remain at least as high as the prevailing bank base rate. Gross rates offered to other savers are normally between 1 and 2 percentage points below the prevailing base rate.

Service personnel who save £50 — £200 a month for at least five years will get £1 for every £3 saved, including interest, from the MoD, towards the cost of buying a home. The level of this tax-free grant could vary.

The Norwich and Peterborough will pay 0.3 per cent gross above the prevailing base rate on savings. Interest will be compounded annually and service personnel will receive annual statements. The account can be closed at any time without penalty but those who have saved for less than five years will not qualify



Excitement now — but housing problems on leaving the army: the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery

for the MoD's Home Savings Allowance. The Skipton is offering a gross rate of 0.25 per cent above the prevailing base rate. Those saving with Garmore will get 7 per cent gross annually, (a compounded annual rate of 7.23 per

cent). After five years, those saving the maximum amount of £200 per month will have saved £12,000, earned interest of £1,754 and received a Home Savings Allowance of £4,585. This will bring their total to £18,339.

Autumn turns cold for savers

MORE building societies and banks cut savers' rates this week after last week's Autumn Statement 1 per cent base rate cut to 7 per cent. The average cut in rates is about three quarters of a percentage point (Sara McConnell writes).

Abbey National's cuts across its savings accounts averaged 0.6 per cent. The bank's Instant Saver account, which offers instant access now pays a top rate of 4.54 per cent net, 6.05 per cent gross on balances of £25,000 and over, down from 5.18 per cent net, 6.9 per cent gross. Balances of £500 — £2,500 now earn 3.75 per cent net, 5 per cent gross, (4.35 per cent net, 5.8 per cent gross). The 90 day notice Investment Account now pays a top rate of 5.1 per cent net, 6.8 per cent gross on balances of £25,000 and over (5.7 per cent net, 7.6 per cent gross).

Savers with £500 — £2,499.99 in a Leeds Permanent Liquid Gold account will see their net rate fall from 4.2 per cent to 3.64 per cent. The new gross rate is 4.85 per cent (5.6 per cent). The top rate is now 4.76 per cent net, 6.35 per cent gross on balances of over £25,000. The society's Solid Gold 90 day account pays 4.05 per cent net, 5.4 per cent gross on £500 — £4,999.99, a cut of three quarters of a percentage point. Rates on balances of £50,000 and over have fallen by 0.8 per cent to 5.85 per cent net, 7.8 per cent gross.

The Alliance & Leicester has cut rates by 0.75 per cent on average, although its basic share account rate is unchanged. Balances of £500 — £2,500 on its instant access account will earn 3.63 per cent net, 4.85 per cent gross while the top rate is 4.23 per cent net, 5.65 per cent gross on £25,000 and over. The rate for £1,000 — £5,000 in a Ninety Day account is now 3.86 per cent net, 5.15 per cent gross with a maximum of 5.36 per cent net, 7.15 per cent gross on balances of £50,000 and over.

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MORTGAGES NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following changes apply from 20th November 1992 for loans not yet drawn and from the first payment date on or after 31st December 1992 for existing borrowers.

Home Loan Rate reduced by 0.70% to 8.59% per annum.

Stabilised Charging Rate reduced by 0.70% to 8.89% per annum.

This does not apply to loans from Central Banking Services.

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مكتبة الأمل

BRIEFINGS

Fidelity has launched a new money management service. The Fidelity Asset Manager, aimed at providing a better long-term return than a building society by combining high interest cash deposits and bond funds with controlled risk funds.

Clients will receive regular statements, valuations and reports on their portfolios and may call free an investor line from 9am to 9pm, seven days a week. The minimum investment is £10,000.

□ The Revenue has increased the exempt limit that employers may make to employees while they attend full-time educational courses from £5,500 to £7,000 a year. Scholarships, exhibitions and other payments are exempted if the employee is enrolled at an educational establishment for at least one academic year and the actual full-time attendance during that period

amounts, on average, to 20 weeks a year.

□ A four-year income bond that guarantees to pay 6.3 per cent a year net of tax for basic rate taxpayers is being offered by the Co-operative Bank. The bond, an endowment policy issued by Consolidated Life, has a minimum investment of £2,000.

□ Southerners are nearly twice as likely to have a credit card than those living in the North, according to a survey by Mori for Link, the building society and bank cash dispenser network. In the South, 42 per cent of those asked had at least one card compared with 24 per cent of Northerners. □ Scottish Equitable has launched a self-administered personal pension. Reflex Control policyholders will be able to split their contributions between Scottish Equitable pension funds and other investments.

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And your capital can appreciate without personal Capital Gains Tax with the fund bearing the liability instead. In fact, we can also arrange that the proceeds of one particular plan are paid free of Inheritance Tax to your heirs.

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Dispelling the myths over commission disclosure

From Mr James Higgins
Sir, I imagine, after your comment (November 14) you might receive one or two critical letters from independent financial advisers and insurance salesmen. Although I can hardly claim to be impartial, in this matter, I thought that I should try to "balance" your post.

Cash disclosure of commissions is vitally important. The usual argument against disclosure is that the investor does not need to know what profit a salesman makes from the sale of a policy—in much the same way as a buyer does not know the profit a shopkeeper makes on each sale. But in a shop, at least the purchaser knows the price before buying. In the purchase of an insurance product, one never knows the true price until well after the sale, and even then it comes in the form of an almost unintelligible disclosure document which few laymen can be expected to understand. (In my experience, the investor usually calls the salesman on receipt of the disclosure form for instructions: they are often

told to bin it). But high and hidden commissions are only part of the problem. The real problem is that the commission system of reward actually prevents the industry from giving "best advice".

Commission-remunerated IFAs are forced to limit their so-called advice to those products which remunerate them. What of the investments and strategies which carry no commission, such as National Savings certificates, gilts, investment trusts? (How many malshots were there on the 5th issue index-linked National Savings certificate warning—these must be withdrawn shortly—buy now while stocks last and how many on with-profit bonds?)

Ultimately, financial planning is about arranging one's affairs to most efficiently meet one's financial objectives. Occasionally, an insurance product might be a useful inclusion, but rarely as an investment or savings vehicle, and anyone looking closely at the range of alternatives will soon determine the insurance companies and unit trust groups have little to offer but package-

ing. Financial planning has become a vast self-sustaining industry selling investment and insurance products in the place of sound advice.

I firmly believe the only way to regulate the industry and prevent the recurrence of cases such as the one you have written about, is to educate the public—as you are doing—about the effects of commission and to encourage them to ask searching questions of their adviser. Ultimately, a fee basis is the only sensible way to proceed and, contrary to the insurance industry myth, a fee system does not exclude the smaller investor nor is it impractical for the broker.

We have worked on a fee basis since we began our business two years ago and, in these recessionary times, we are still growing. The public welcome a system wherein the broker has no vested interest whatsoever in a reward per transaction.
Yours faithfully,
JAMES HIGGINS,
Director,
Chamberlain De Broe Ltd,
10 West Halkin Street,
SW1.

Enduring power

From Mr H. Saunders
Sir, Sara McConnell's article on enduring power of attorney (EPA) (Weekend Money November 7) is incorrect (or at any rate misleading) in stating that "If the EPA needs to be put into effect it has to be registered with the Court of Protection," and that "Merely signing an enduring power of attorney does not bind the donor to anything before it is registered with the court..."

Of course the power is effective immediately it is executed like any other power of attorney; the only special feature of an EPA is that unlike any other it endures even after the donor has become mentally incapable of managing his/her affairs, at which point (not before) it has to be registered to remain effective.

Yours faithfully,
H. SAUNDERS,
52 Upper Brook Hill,
Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

Abbey National policy on cheques and interest

From Mr John Berry
Sir, I write in reply to the letter from Gordon Bussey of Purley, published on 7th November, concerning Abbey National's policy on drawing and depositing cheques. Since 1st August 1992, Abbey National has paid interest on all cheques deposited into savings accounts from the fourth working day. This is in line with most of our major competitors.

All 10 million Abbey National savers received notification of this change in their annual statements in April of this year.

Mr Bussey's second point referred to cheques drawn on savings accounts. When a withdrawal is made by cheque, the amount is transferred to Abbey National's

own current account to ensure that a cheque is always honoured. If not, the situation could arise where before a cheque is presented, money is withdrawn from the account and it could go into overdraft. As savings accounts cannot operate in overdraft, the money remains in Abbey National's current account until payment is made, and is not used for any other purpose.

Mr Bussey is therefore correct in saying that interest is no longer paid once a cheque has been written, but I would stress that this is common practice as an important safeguard for both savings institutions and their customers.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN BERRY,
Marketing Director,
Abbey National Plc.

Disgust at being termed an 'Aunt Nellie'

From Mr Robert Cole
Sir, Whilst fully appreciating the National Association of Pension Funds' discussion document setting out proposals for a compensation scheme to protect members of company pension funds will attract a wide range of opinion from the pensions world—I must protest at Peter Styles' comments (November 7). As a member of a Maxwell Group pension scheme who contributed over some 30 years and who was due to retire in 18 months, I find it difficult enough to accept I was treated as an Aunt Sally and my contributions "went walkies"—but to find myself classified among the "Poor old Auntie Nannies who must get her pension" I find patronising, if not insulting.

Mr Styles, as group compensation and benefits manager of a large group of com-

panies do you not appreciate pension fund members represent about the largest group of investors on the stock market?

No, Mr Styles, pension fund members are not "Poor old Aunt Nannies" towards whom you feel you should have some patronising conscience—let me remind you we provide your very bread and butter—particularly whilst companies enjoy pensions holidays and are allowed to cream off pension fund surpluses.

I would remind you of King Charles II's alleged dying request to his Court—"Let no poor Nellie starve"—his Court heeded his words—might us Nannies hope the NAPF members will find a solution to this problem rather than reasons why not.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT COLE,
11 Sheridan Crescent,
Chislehurst, Kent.

She says she's cancelled your Barclaycard



Phantom of the Barclaycard

From Mr L. Burgess
Sir, On December 24th 1990, my wife received a letter from BarclayCard acknowledging her letter (imaginary) asking them to cancel her BarclayCard. It was December 24th, so I went into the local branch of Barclays at East Finchley, N2, and showed them the letter. Of course my wife had never asked for her card to be cancelled, and had no intention of doing so. Enquiries went on at Barclays for several weeks, various letters and phone calls expressing profuse apology were received, and finally their supervisor phoned

to say: "That though the matter had been investigated at the very highest level, they were unable to explain why their letter had been sent."

So instead of a "phantom withdrawal" we had a phantom cancellation!

That was the end of the matter, and we have had a good laugh many times when we think about it. Where did our phantom cancellation originate?
Yours faithfully,
L. BURGESS,
235 Creighton Avenue,
East Finchley,
N2.

It pays to read bank statements closely

From Mr L. O. B. Deacon
Sir, On 2nd October I cashed a cheque for £100 at my bank and my account was only debited with that amount on the same day. On 6th October I was debited a second time with the same amount in respect of the identical cheque.

When I wrote to my bank I received the following explanation: "Thank you for your letter of 19th October, bringing to my attention an error on your statement on 6th October."

"I have now discovered that the error was made by us and was caused by a duplicate processing of your cheque for £100."

"Such an error does not come to light until a customer notices it. However, I have

arranged for the money to be refunded immediately and may I thank you for notifying me of this mistake."

It seems that we retired chartered accountants have something to teach the banks about the elements of double-entry book keeping. I should very much like to know who would have been the beneficiary of my unintended largesse had I been somewhat less vigilant.

As Mr Cooper says in his letter, it is now totally up to the customer.
Yours faithfully,
L. O. B. DEACON,
Chartered Accountant,
Windmill Cottage,
Old Mill Place,
Pulborough,
West Sussex.

Fee refund is cream on a competitive cake

From Mr Richard Rowlin
Sir, With reference to the letter by Mrs A. J. Blakeway (Weekend Money November 14).

For some time The Zurich Insurance Company have been offering to refund the "administration" fee charged by building societies when insurance is taken out with them. They will pay up to £25 of the fee. Zurich rates are

most competitive but the offer is limited. We have placed a substantial amount of business with them as you might imagine.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ROWLIN,
Chartered Insurance Practitioner,
Thames Valley Insurance Services Ltd,
91b London Road,
High Wycombe, Bucks.

Putting wanting into waiting

From Mr and Mrs C. Gordon
Sir, Like Mr Palling (November 14) we too have been charged a paltry sum of interest incorrectly on both our Access (64p) and Visa (43p) Cards. These are both Royal Bank of Scotland cards and are paid by direct debit from our Royal Bank account. There is, therefore, no question of late payment. Also like Mr Palling, our two letters to the Credit Card Centre have not had the courtesy of a reply. Our latest Visa statement contains no refund though our Branch of the Royal Bank had said we would get a refund plus interest. We still await our next Access statement.

We end by quoting our last statements from both Access and Visa: "We apologise if you have had difficulty in contacting our telephone enquiry service. Unprecedented numbers of calls have been received."

Yours faithfully,
MAJORIE and GERALD GORDON,
52 Eastwoodmains Road,
Giffnock,
Glasgow.

From Mr D. A. Norburn
Sir, I refer to the letter from Mr Douglas Palling concerning interest charges on Access accounts. I too am very far from being satisfied with the way in which replies do not appear from The Royal Bank of Scotland's Access division.

The statement issued for September 29 caused me to write, questioning the interest charged. Having received no reply, when I sent my cheque on October 17 I asked for a reply to my letter of 29 September. On 29 October a letter dated 27 October was received, acknowledging receipt of my letter of 29 September "which is receiving attention". Today (November 16) I still await positive action.
Yours faithfully,
D. A. NORBURN,
62 Arundel Close,
Lords Wood,
Chatham, Kent.

From Mrs C. Waring
Sir, Mr Douglas Palling should not expect any reply by post from Access. They will not have received his letters yet. It takes 14 days for a cheque to reach them and according to them the GPO is to blame. Strangel letters posted containing cheques at the same time have reached numerous destinations within one day. However, Access is charging interest on this delay. Up till August 92 I have settled my account every month satisfactorily incurring no interest charges. Since August 1992—there have been "delivery problems of cheques to Access". If this is happening with many Access customers—Access is making an extra profit.
Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE WARING,
Dunelm,
24 Execliffe Avenue,
Ashford, Middlesex.

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3	Young (H)	Industrial	
4	Sedgwick	Insurance	
5	Wagon Ind	Industrial	
6	AB Food	Food	
7	Reckitt Coln	Industrial	
8	Catting (W)	Chemicals	
9	Alkermid	Pharmaceuticals	
10	Dela	Electrical	
11	Mason Timp	Beverages	
12	MAM	Fin Trust	
13	Sandilands	Industrial	
14	Harrold	Drugs/Pharm	
15	Scot & New	Beverages	
16	BL of Ireland	Building	
17	ICM	Building	
18	Reid	Electrical	
19	Heath CE	Insurance	
20	ORA	Mining	
21	Stand Chart	Banking	
22	Headline	Newspaper/Pub	
23	Clyde	Industrial	
24	PKI	Electrical	
25	Hepworth	Industrial	
26	Alfred Irish	Banking	
27	Dredco	Mining	
28	Jardine Math	Industrial	
29	Multihone ELEC	Electrical	
30	Br Aerospace	Motor/Air	
31	Aus New Z	Banking	
32	Ind Newspapers	Newspaper/Pub	
33	Adams	Newspaper/Pub	
34	Williams Hldg	Industrial	
35	Jermyn	Property	
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40	Johnson Clean	Business Serv	

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If you have ticked off your eight shares on our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 532722 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details).

Two winners equally share yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Mrs E. Williams, Porthead, Bristol and Mrs P. Wyatt of West Malling, Kent.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Barclays Bank	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Bank of Ireland	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Bank of Wales	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Bank of Cyprus	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Bank of Spain	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Bank of Portugal	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Bank of France	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Bank of Italy	100	4.5	10.5

BREWERIES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

BUILDING, ROADS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

ELECTRICITY

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

FINANCE, LAND

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

FOODS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

HOTELS, CATERERS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

INDUSTRIALS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

ELECTRICALS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

Strong gains at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 16. Dealings and November 27. Settlement day December 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices required are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is revalued. Changes yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

LEISURE

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

INSURANCE

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
2	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
3	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
4	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
5	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
6	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
7	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
8	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
9	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5
10	100	100	Adams	100	4.5	10.5

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Fidelity Brokerage

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30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE LONDON CITY TRUST INFORMATION

FT-SE VOLUMES

[illegible]

LIFE OPTIONS

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	FTSE Euro 100:
3 Jones 3223.31 (+13.78)	Brussels:
FT Composite 425.98 (+2.37)	General 5586.96 (+3.34)
Kyko:	Paris:
Delta Airge 17033.60 (+162.20)	General 459.78 (-12.00)
Kong Kong:	Zurich:
Long Teng 5878.18 (+22.77)	SKA Gen 393.5 (-2.1)
London:	
Amsterdam:	FT A All-Share 1294.43 (+10.10)
Tendancy 103.4 (+0.3)	FT 500 1436.67 (+10.63)
Frankfurt:	FT Gold Mines 64.3 (+0.2)
AO 1410.1 (+17.3)	FT 100 Internet 177.17 (+0.06)
Munich:	FT Govt Secs 93.96 (-0.09)
Bankfurt 1544.76 (+0.89)	Bargains 26527
	USQ Volume 945.7m
	USM (Dow Jones) 114.71 (+0.19)
TRADITIONAL OPTIONS	
Last Dealings	Last Declaration
Number 9	For Settlement
options were taken out on 20/1/92: Ferranti, Hannesdottir, Premier Cms Oil, Samsens, Rhino, Tibbet & Britten.	For Settlement
	Week 22

<p>1. <u>Case Negation</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
T-SE 100						
December open interest: 47373	Dec '91	2716.0	2737.0	2710.0	2735.0	847.0
	Dec '91	2716.0	2737.0	2710.0	2735.0	847.0
Three Month Sterling						
March open interest: 251735	Mar '92	93.00	93.15	92.90	93.00	1122.0
	Mar '92	93.00	93.15	92.90	93.00	1122.0
Three Month Eurodollar						
March open interest: 251735	Mar '92	93.00	93.15	92.90	93.00	1122.0
	Mar '92	93.00	93.15	92.90	93.00	1122.0
Three Month Euro DM						
March open interest: 423977	Mar '92	94.00	94.25	94.00	94.12	508.0
	Mar '92	94.00	94.25	94.00	94.12	508.0
US Treasury Bond						
January open interest: 129	Dec '91	103-19	103-41	103-18	103-20	10.0
	Dec '91	103-19	103-41	103-18	103-20	10.0
Long Gilt						
December open interest: 5240	Dec '91	108-60	108-11	108-22	108-11	870.0
	Dec '91	108-60	108-11	108-22	108-11	870.0
German Government Bond						
December open interest: 157045	Dec '91	108-18	108-18	108-08	108-06	678.0
	Dec '91	108-18	108-18	108-08	108-06	678.0
Three Month BCU						
December open interest: 12892	Dec '91	93-05	93-12	93-00	93-10	1214.0
	Dec '91	93-05	93-12	93-00	93-10	1214.0
Three Month Swiss Franc						
December open interest: 42934	Dec '91	94-30	94-30	94-14	94-16	6359.0
	Dec '91	94-30	94-30	94-14	94-16	6359.0
Italian Govt Bond						
December open interest: 129	Dec '91	94-30	94-46	94-26	94-45	117.0
	Dec '91	94-30	94-46	94-26	94-45	117.0

SPRING 1994

LOSSES OF UP TO FIVE SIG- NAL CONDITIONS. ROBUSTA MOVED HEAVILY TO LATE					
TO HAVE ABSORBED THE LOSSES ON A MODERATE					
GNI LOR (London 5.00pm) Ahead of the weekend. Traders started time before next week's Option session.					
CRAVE OILS (Shanghai FOB)					
Brent Physical	19.44	19.45	n/a		
15 day (Dag)	19.48	19.47	n/a		
Brent 15 Jan	19.45	19.35	-0.10		
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	20.40	20.40	-0.10		
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	20.55	20.55	-0.05		
PRODUCTS (GNT)					
Spot CIF NW Europe (grossed delivery)					
Petroleum Conc. J15	Mkt: 20.50	Other: 21.0 (n/a)			
Crude EBC	179 (-1)	180 (-2)			
Nor EEC 2nd Dec	181 (-1)	182 (-2)			
Nor EEC 1st Jan	183 (-3)	184 (-2)			
S.S Fuel Oil	90 (+1)	92 (+1)			
Naphtha	189 (+4)	190 (+4)			
LIFE FUTURES					
GNI LIQ					
GAS OIL					
Dec	a/a	Mar	180.50-81.00		
Jan	180.25-40.50	Apr	177.25-37.50		
Feb	a/a	May	174.25-37.50		
			Vols: 14401		
BURNET (6.00pm)					
Jan	19.19-19.35	Apr	19.15-19.20		
Feb	19.20-19.35	May	19.15-19.20		
Mar	19.25-19.35	Jun	19.20-19.35		
UNLEADED GASOLINE					
Dec	201.00-03.00	Mar	200.00-05.50		
Jan	198.00-02.50	Apr	207.50-51R		
Feb	197.00-02.00		Vols: 105		
RIFLEX					
GNI LIQ (8.00pm)					
Nov 97	Hedge: 1290	Low: 1285	Close: 1285		
Dec 97	1287	1287	1285		
Jan 98	1290	1285	1289		
Apr 98	1300	1290	1288		
Vol: 338 lots	Open bid: 96.34	Index: 1263 +15			
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE					
LME 12PM (N) 387.0, Jan: 1422.0-1422.5, Feb: 50.65					

SECRET

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 78.4 (day's range 78.4-78.8)				
FORWARD RATES				
Mill Rates for Nov 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam	2.7169-2.7241	2.7168-2.7233	1-1/2c	1-3/4c
Buenos Aires	49.51-50.00	49.68-49.88	3-10c	3-11c
Canton	2.7169-2.7241	2.7168-2.7233	1-1/2c	1-3/4c
Dublin	0.9191-0.9237	0.9191-0.9144	99-11/16c	176-23/16c
Frankfurt	2.7169-2.7241	2.7168-2.7233	1-1/2c	1-3/4c
London	2.0630-2.0260	2.0736-2.0200	200-205c	550-570c
Madrid	172.66-174.10	173.25-174.10	110-202 1/2c	315-360c
Mexico	200.00-204.00	200.00-204.00	1-13/16c	1-13/16c
New York	1.9413-1.9581	1.9413-1.9434	110-202 1/2c	110-202 1/2c
Paris	2.7169-2.7241	2.7168-2.7233	1-13/16c	1-13/16c
Puerto Rico	2.0736-2.0200	2.0736-2.0200	5.02-5.03p	1.24-1.25c
San Francisco	2.0736-2.0200	2.0736-2.0200	5.02-5.03p	1.24-1.25c
Seattle	1.8835-1.8876	1.8835-1.8876	N/A	N/A
Tokyo	16.95-17.10	17.00-17.05	17-3/16c	51-7/16c
Zurich	2.1736-2.1828	2.1736-2.1774	1-13/16c	1-13/16c
Source: Basi				

Australia dollar	2.2299-2.2331	Austria	13.76-13.80
Bahrain dinar	0.575-0.584	Belgium (Com)	32.50-32.60
Brazil cruzeiro*	14151.2-14155.2	Canada	70.925-70.935

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Welsh dragon may lack firepower to topple Australia



harricane are without England's best players, the England stars after injury, the 11th Kilkick taking place. The former Cambridge University full back, Andy Panton, comes in from the left wing for the first time since the departure of Mike Wedderburn. Northampton are without the injured Ian Hunter, John Steele moving to full back, and the substitutes, Lubb to play at stand-off, Rod McLaughlin's broken thumb allows Matthew Dawson to move to his normal centre position. Dave Ellington returns at scrum half.

Licester v Bath

Leicester are without Tony Underwood, injured during the England-South Africa international in London, to his brother, Roy and Steve Hawkey play on the wings. Simon Povey continues at flanker in place of injured captain, John Wells. Bath are unchanged.

Rugby v London Irish

Rugby bring in Neil Riley at prop for the suspended Gareth Tregidgas and their only other change is also in the front row, where Jason Adwinlow is replaced by David de Hoon. London Irish have a full complement of internationals and are at full strength.

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Her fragile service hardly helped her cause either, as she produced nine double faults, the last on match point.

Sells said: "I thought that I had to change my game and go for it. I was just pushing the ball back, and you can't play against Jana like that."

Martina Navratilova maintained her winning streak against Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, her 1-1, 2-6, 6-2 victory, making her twelfth win in 13 meetings.

The 12-year doubles partnership of Navratilova and Pam Shriver went involuntary liquidation this week after they were defeated 6-4, 7-5, by Sánchez and Helena Sukova in the semifinals. Navratilova, 36, believes she is no longer able to deal with the demands of playing both singles and doubles, but they may still occasionally play together.

RESULTS: Quarter-final: M Navratilova (Czech) 1-1, 2-6, 6-2; S Sells (Ug) 6-1, 7 Novotna (Cz) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

□ Amanda Grunfeld, Britain's last singles survivor, was beaten 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 by Elena Pampoulova-Wagner of Bulgaria, in the Texaco women's doubles semi-finals at Nottingham.

HOBBY
 Football: Wales, Northern Ireland
 Tennis: National Ice Park, 5.30.
HIGHER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham Bombers v Whitley Warriors; National League: Walsley Bears v First division: Basingstoke Beavers v Midway Bears, Slough Jets v Lee Valley Lions, Swindon Wildcats v Romford Royals, Trafford Tigers v Milton Keynes Kings.
VOLLEYBALL
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Tooling Aquila v Speedwell Pucinos; Wosses v Resoln Liverpool City; KLEA Leeds v Newcastle Falcons; Kolorade Easting v Muzmo Llewishem.
LACROSSE
SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Halcroes v Easting, Bath v Kenton, Hichen v Purley, London University

BOWLS: Manchester Unity Liberty Trophy Group two: Lancashire v Northumberland, Derbyshire v Durham.

TENNIS: LTA women's challenger tournament (Nottingham). Cellist Singles Challenge semi-finals.

REAL TENNIS: George Wimpey Bruch

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Saturday portrait: David Campese, by Gerald Davies

Behold the grace and genius of rugby's last great illusionist

There exist those rare actors on stage whose indefinable quality compels attention and whose finest gesture diverts the eye. David Campese, the Australian wing, accomplishes as much on the rugby field.

Before the World Cup semi-final at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, last year, he even upstaged New Zealand's ritual haka. The intimidating black phalanx was met with a threatening stare from all the Australians except one. Campese would have none of it. He retired to a corner of the pitch and juggled rugby balls until the embarrassing pre-match rignarole was over.

This was characteristic Campese. Like his playing style, his actions deviated from conventional response. Here was the loner in the team but not quite fully of it.

During play, despite his animated talk and all that rages around him, he retains a still, small centre of calm. "I prefer to relax before I play. I want to do what I want to do on the field," he said. "To focus my attention before I go out, I read a poem my mother sent me once. I want to be different." Wales, who meet Australia at Cardiff Arms Park today, know all about the difference Campese can make.

When the sides met in the World Cup last year, Australia ran out 38-3 winners and Campese scored one of the six tries.

Different he is. In that semi-final in Dublin, New Zealand were destroyed by contrasting aspects of Campese's glorious talent. Two tenets of his greatness came into play. One is anticipation, learnt from Mark Ella, his former colleague, and the key to his success; the other is that the player in space is the one who gives the man with the ball the options.

Early in the game, he came away from his position on the right and took a long, diagonal line across a congested defence to score in the opposite corner. Later, he judged the bounce of the ball, beat a man, leaned one way and another, and when caught, passed the ball over his left shoulder to Horan.

There was such wonder that the ground was momentarily, disbe-

lievingly, silenced. Had we really seen what had just unfolded? Such sleights of hand and foot made Campese the player and the personality of the 1991 World Cup.

So, let us have no equivocation. Let us not be economical and use a weasel word such as "arguable". Campese, performance on performance, is the most exciting rugby player in the world. At 30, and living a pedlar's life bestowing his rugby gifts all year round in the northern and southern hemispheres, he is also rugby union's most famous player.

It is unremarkable that, in a game that relies more than any other on the interdependence of players, one man should rise above the others. Some imposing figure will always emerge from the toil and the steam to make his mark.

It is only the ordinary player who is always able to play at his best. The player of genius may falter but is able to soar higher than the rest

What is remarkable is that this status should be accorded to rugby's most solitary player, the wing, a man on the fringes of the mêlée.

He is the most exposed player of all. Make a mistake and there is no redemption. Little more than a privileged spectator, his chances are rare. Campese has turned the old, traditional view of this position on its head. He has made the position, hitherto a mere footnote in the coaching manual, a focal point. Tactics are forged around him.

No other wing in the history of rugby has been afforded this luxury, so commonly distrusted are they in the open field.

In this respect, Campese has had the advantage of working under Bob Dwyer, the Australia coach, who hails from the same club as himself — Randwick in Sydney.

Speed is essential for Campese's position. John Kirwan, of New Zealand, can run and swif a bit

but depends on power. Rory Underwood, of England, has a sprinter's pace and grace. Patrice Lagisquet, of France, is less graceful but is equally fast and has more guile.

At the risk of tainting a monumental career, let us say that Campese, at 5ft 10in and 13st 7lb, is not endowed with genuine run-like-the-wind speed. But then it is unnecessary. Instead, he succeeds because of the infinite variety of his other talents. His wits are his constant companion and, of these, he is blessed more than the others.

Because of the intricate nature of his style, the veering in and out, the changing tempo and direction, Campese, like the great illusionist he is, gives only the impression of speed. Angles, not straight lines, are his preferred route; contrivance the method, surprise the device.

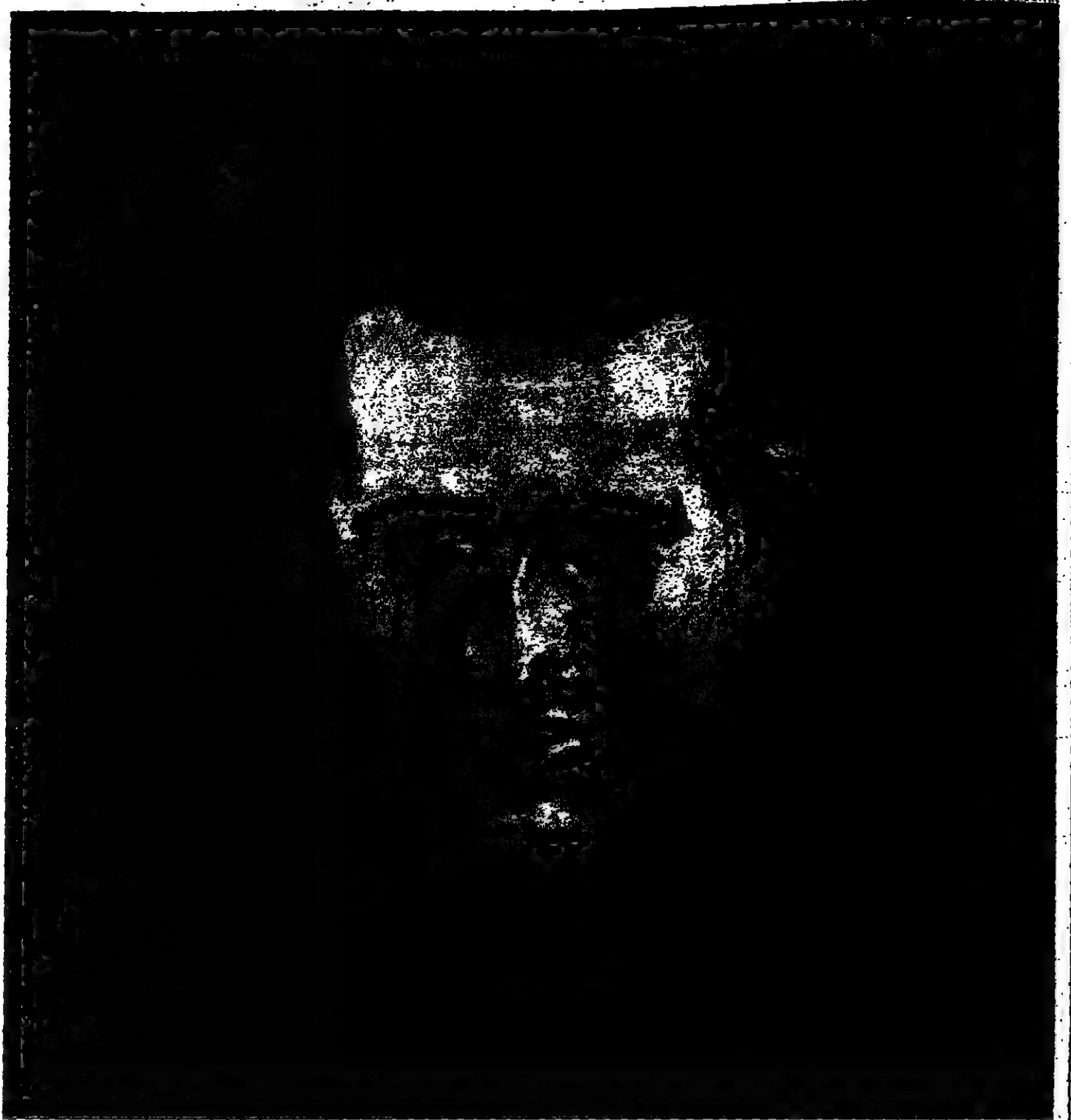
He is foot-loose and fancy-free, which is why he has not wanted to play rugby league. In league, he said, you are not allowed the luxury of risks or to do your own thing. The cynics suggest he can afford to turn down the lure elsewhere for the lira in Milan, where he also plays.

"Playing rugby all the year round, the Italians have looked after me," he said. "I have a sports shop in Sydney but, when in Italy, I spend my time with a travel agency and local golf club. I have no other qualifications other than being a rugby player. I see nothing wrong with the way I devote my life to the game."

There is a strong bond with Italy. His father, a window maker, moved to Australia from Padua after the second world war and settled in Queensland in New South Wales. Campese was not interested in school and left at 16. At 17, he took naturally to rugby union. The freshness of the unlettered boy continues to infuse his play.

Apart from golf, he has not wanted to play other sports. Travel has been his education since 1982, when, at 19, he first played against New Zealand.

Campese delights the statistician and the artist. For those enamoured of figures, he holds the world record of 51 tries, accom-



plished since he scored his first on his debut and his last three weeks ago against Ireland. With 71 international appearances, he is Australia's most capped player.

He would have caught the artist's eye had he never scored a try because contemplating his tries is only a part of the rich texture of Campese's rugby. He is a superb kicker of the ball but his style is that of a swashbuckler. He takes risks. He makes mistakes.

But as Neville Cardus once said,

it is only the ordinary player who is always able to play at his best. The player of genius may falter but is still able to soar higher than the rest.

Campese leads a quiet life. He loves rugby's camaraderie but in a fraternity of renowned beer-swillers and vast appetites, he rarely drinks alcohol, rarely eats red meat. Playing rugby and preparing for it, he says, is his life. Girlfriends and fiancées have come and gone because they have

not come to terms with his obsession.

Campese admits that a sporting life is a short one and what must be done must be done now. There is, as every sportsman knows, a selfish regard for fulfilment marked by the tyranny of time.

Sportsmen are both tough and sensitive. Tough to the demands made of them by their calling, sensitive that realisation is always a desperate step away. Triumph and disaster are nodding acquaint-

ances. Under the nagging pressure he is serious but generous; never a sign of any conduct unbefitting to the game.

And he so obviously enjoys himself. More so than with any other player, thought and action are in harmony.

Campese of all players, with his devil-may-care, go-as-you-please independence, revives romantic longings of an age just past. And of the player every father, even the hooker, might wish his son to be.

YACHTING

Golding returns to race

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN BUENOS AIRES

MIKE Golding and his crew on Group 4 Securitas rejoined the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race early yesterday, less than 48 hours after breaking their forestay during the beat south from Rio de Janeiro to Cape Horn.

The rapid turnaround was largely due to their sponsor, who not only provided a personal courier for the spare parts to be flown from England but threw in a Lear jet after crew members Nick Joubert and John Carter, who had taken their damaged sail to São Paulo for repair, missed the commercial flight back to Florianopolis, where the yacht put in to port.

The diversion has cost the team more than 250 miles on Nuclear Electric, which has led the ten-strong fleet of identical 67ft yachts for much of the past week. However, Group 4 was speeding south at 11 knots yesterday, 2.5 knots faster than their rivals on Commercial Union and it may not be long before Mike Golding, the Group 4 skipper, and his crew have made up the 130 miles that divides them.

John Chittenden and his team on Nuclear Electric, who have taken an extreme easterly course down the South American coast, continued to enjoy the most favourable breeze yesterday.

The next hurdle for the crews as they close on the Plate Estuary over the weekend is the threat of ice. At least 12 icebergs up to 100 feet high have been spotted north of the Falkland Islands, and the waters are littered with "growlers", chunks of ice that have broken off a giant iceberg, once the size of the Isle of Wight, which has grounded on the Argentine coast.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 15.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Hobart): 1, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 6,861 miles; 2, Securitas (P Pickthall), 6,863; 3, Hullam Lager (P Golding), 6,863; 4, Interplay (P Joubert), 6,861; 5, Coopers & Lybrand (P Chittenden), 6,861; 6, Commercial Union (A Chittenden), 6,860; 7, British Steel II (R Tucker), 6,858; 8, Pride of Tyneside (J Macdonald), 6,857; 9, Commercial Union (P Chittenden), 7,002; 10, Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 7,138.

Results compiled by British Telecom

MOTOR RALLYING: BRITISH RACE HEADING FOR THRILLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALE

Auriol seeks to rally his world title cause

BY STEPHEN SLATER

THE Lombard RAC Rally, which starts from Chester tomorrow, marks the nineteenth and final year of the finance company's sponsorship of the event, yet at no time in its involvement has the race been as closely contested and as crucial to the world championship as this one.

Ten drivers, in four different types of car, have a chance of winning the race, which will also decide which of three drivers will win the world championship. Juha Kankkunen, the champion, and Didier Auriol, both driving Lancias, and Carlos Sainz, in a Toyota, will start the fourteenth and final round of the championship separated by just three points. After four days and 34 timed, flat-out special stages, it will be winner-takes-all for three of the finest drivers in the sport.

Auriol, 35, is the most likely winner. Having won a record six world championship rallies this season, the Frenchman was on target to take the title a month ago, but in the last two rallies his luck ran out. A sheared wheel forced him out of the San Remo rally in Italy and a power-steering failure hurried his Martini Lancia off the road in Spain. His lead was overtaken by both Kankkunen, his team-mate, and Sainz. Next year he is joining Sainz in the Toyota team, but he needs one final victory, for Lancia, to become champion.

The 1992 event could almost be regarded as a triumph of Sainz's driving skill over his machinery as he overcame a host of development problems with the new Toyota Celica

Coupe to snatch the championship lead. The car features a complex suspension system, which proved difficult to fine tune and a handful of drive, as accidents to Sainz's team-mates, Markku Alen and Armin Schwazer proved.

Sainz, however, survived to win the 2,700-mile Safari rally in Kenya, then, two weeks ago in Spain, the Toyota team's development work paid off and the car came good. The 30-year-old Spaniard dominated his home event to take victory and the championship lead, but he knows the mixture of jubilation and disappointment the RAC Rally can offer.

In 1990, Sainz clinched the title by winning the rally after Kankkunen crashed on the final day. Last year, it was the Spaniard who was forced to limp through the final stages with an overheating engine as Kankkunen headed to victory and the championship crown, becoming the only driver to win the world title three times.

This year the Finn will carry the No. 1 on his Lancia as champion, but as his accident on black ice in 1990 proved, it can have its pitfalls. "It's always good to start as No. 1 because I get a good clear run with nobody in front of me," Kankkunen, 33, said. "But the disadvantage is that there are nobody's facts to follow, so no early warnings of trouble."

In addition to the battle for the championship, there is a strong chance of a first British winner of the rally since Roger Clark took victory in 1976. Colin McRae, from Lanark, has dominated the British open championship for the second successive year in his Subaru Legacy, after last year taking the event by storm before crashing. Since then McRae, 23, has proved a match for his illustrious Subaru team-mate, Ari Vatanen, and finished a fine second in the Swedish rally.

McRae's determination to finish was proved on the 1,000 Lakes rally in Finland, where he claimed sixth place, despite his car somersaulting off the road twice and rolling 13 times in high-speed accidents. Victory on this rally will gain him a special one-off £100,000 sponsor's award.

A total of 176 cars will leave



Chester at 6.45am tomorrow for an initial 296-mile loop through the spectator stages in the Midlands, which should attract an audience of one million. On Monday, the cars will again leave Chester, this time heading west for ten special stages in the Welsh forests. On Tuesday, competitors head north through the Lake District and into the Kielder Forest, completing nine special stages before their overnight halt in Carlisle. On the final day competitors will tackle six special stages in southern Scotland before heading back to Chester and the finish.

WHERE TO WATCH TOMORROW: 08.00: start, Easington, Chester, 07.15: special stage, Clifton Park, 08.00: special stage, Wetherby, 08.15: special stage, Skipton, 08.30: special stage, Skipton, 08.45: special stage, Skipton, 09.00: special stage, Skipton, 09.15: special stage, Skipton, 09.30: special stage, Skipton, 09.45: special stage, Skipton, 10.00: special stage, Skipton, 10.15: special stage, Skipton, 10.30: special stage, Skipton, 10.45: special stage, Skipton, 11.00: special stage, Skipton, 11.15: special stage, Skipton, 11.30: special stage, Skipton, 11.45: special stage, Skipton, 12.00: special stage, Skipton, 12.15: special stage, Skipton, 12.30: special stage, Skipton, 12.45: special stage, Skipton, 13.00: special stage, Skipton, 13.15: special stage, Skipton, 13.30: special stage, Skipton, 13.45: special stage, Skipton, 14.00: special stage, Skipton, 14.15: special stage, Skipton, 14.30: special stage, Skipton, 14.45: special stage, Skipton, 15.00: special stage, Skipton, 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Branfoot looks to ease pressure

Shearer cuts fine figure on return to Southampton

By Louise Taylor

Alan Shearer's return to The Dell tomorrow will provide Southampton's disaffected supporters with a view of the success money can buy in the Premier League. Shearer, whose goals have propelled Blackburn Rovers into contention for the championship, returns to the club which sold him for the princely sum of £3.6 million in the summer.

While Shearer has gone from strength to strength, his goal for England against Turkey in midweek coming on top of 16 he has scored for Blackburn this season, Southampton have had to balance financial viability with the struggle to avoid becoming one of the Premier League's drop-outs.

With Blackburn third in the table and Southampton fourth from bottom, Shearer's sale is regarded as a regrettable piece of business by supporters at The Dell, where recent demonstrations have resulted in Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager, requiring police escorts from the pitch.

Branfoot does not share their sentiments. "This club was in debt when I took over," he said yesterday. "Now it is solvent and there is no danger of Southampton going out of business. I have had to sell people of the calibre of Rod Wallace, Alan Shearer, Barry Horne and Neil Ruddock. It has left a great hole in my side — and I cannot say that the mood on the terraces does not disturb me because it does — but selling those players has brought financial stability."

As Branfoot appreciates,

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham	15	9	3	3	27	30	21
Sheff Wed	15	9	2	4	22	19	20
Blackburn	15	7	6	2	24	15	27
Aston Villa	15	7	5	3	20	18	26
Coventry	15	6	6	3	18	23	23
Man City	15	6	4	5	21	14	22
Chelsea	15	6	4	5	22	12	22
Blackpool	15	4	9	2	20	18	21
Man Utd	15	5	6	4	14	21	21
Liverpool	15	5	4	6	24	19	19
Sheff Utd	15	4	6	5	17	18	18
Leeds	15	4	6	5	22	17	18
Tottenham	15	4	6	5	20	17	17
Everton	15	4	4	7	13	16	16
Southampton	15	3	6	6	12	17	15
Wimbledon	15	3	5	7	18	14	14
Crystal Palace	15	3	5	7	19	11	11
Nottingham	15	2	6	7	11	24	10

borrowing money is expensive. "No business wants to be borrowing money, because the interest on loan repayments is so costly," he said. "If a club is £1 million in debt, it will be paying over £100,000 in interest on the loan. That is madness. I have no doubt whatsoever that we are doing the right thing here and I am confident we will stay up. But I would like to win tomorrow."

That will involve shacking Shearer. "It will not be easy because Alan is so strong, both physically and mentally," Branfoot said. "He is 22-years-old going on 35. No one fails to respect Shearer, although he is not arrogant. A lot of forwards lose the respect of their team-mates when they go through a lean spell, but even when he was struggling to get goals, Alan never lost credibility, or popularity. He works so hard for a team, I became quite close to him last season."

Shearer, who has faltered of late after a prolific start at Ewood Park, still lives in Southampton, where his wife, Lainya, has recently given birth to their first child. She, and her family, are Southampton supporters who will have divided loyalties tomorrow.

The hours spent on the motorway between training at Blackburn and being with his baby seemed to have taken a toll on Shearer's sharpness until his goal against Turkey at Wembley on Wednesday. But he has failed to score in Blackburn's last four league matches, which have resulted in three draws and a defeat at home by Tottenham Hotspur.

That has cost Blackburn the top spot and Shearer said: "I am a marked man now. But Southampton are under a lot more pressure than me. I hope I can add to it because that is my job. But after the game I would love them to pick up as I have plenty of affection for the club."

"Ian Branfoot is getting stick from the supporters but that just puts pressure on the players' shoulders. The supporters may not think Ian is the best man for the job but if they lay off him for a bit then he might get it right for them."

"It is not always his fault and I hope they give the team the right backing. I have no doubts they will get out of difficulties because there is a great team spirit at The Dell which got us out of trouble last year."

First bid rejected, page 35
Non-League review, page 35

Quarter-finalists rewarded

THE eight countries that reached the quarter-finals of rugby union's 1991 World Cup will be seeded direct to the 1995 tournament in South Africa (David Hands writes). But the decision, announced yesterday in Bristol after the interim meeting of the International Rugby Football Board's (IRFB) executive

council, was made only on the casting vote of the chairman.

This means that Australia, England, New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland, Western Samoa, France and Canada win an automatic place in the tournament, which will be staged in May and June of 1995. With South Africa taking part as host nation, seven

places are left for the rest of the world.

Therefore Wales, who play Australia, the world champions, in Cardiff today, must chase one of three European qualifying places alongside the likes of Italy, Romania and Spain. Two qualifying places are available for the Asian Pacific zone and one each for the Americas and Africa.

The IRFB will sustain its decision to play the tournament in South Africa, regardless of the alarms of the last four months.

The host union agreement has yet to be signed, nor have commercial advisers been appointed, but when Rugby World Cup (RWC) representatives visit South Africa in January they will hope such vital details can be confirmed.

By then, the South African Rugby Football Union should have appointed a marketing manager and given evidence of its development plans, to help ensure support for the tournament from all political groups in the country.

Cardiff preview, page 31



Capping the achievement: Courier, the world No. 1, in action in his victory in Frankfurt yesterday

Courier plays his aces on time

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN FRANKFURT

JIM Courier kept alive his hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals of the ATP tennis championship with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Michael Chang in the opening group match here last night.

After facing the two biggest servers on the tour, Richard Krajicek twice and Goran Ivanisevic, in his last three matches, Courier, the world No. 1, relished the chance to resume normal service on the baseline. Against Chang's lesser weaponry, he was able to control the points as he does on clay, get his feet into position for passing strokes and rely less on pure touch.

For once, Courier had the big service and a tally of ten aces proved, not for the first time this week, the undoing of Chang, who has found that speed of foot and mind is not enough to combat the most powerful players in the world on an indoor carpet. A third successive defeat ended his outside chance of qualification.

Chang should really have

tucked away the first set, having had seven chances to break: four in the third game, three in the seventh. But, as in his previous two matches against Krajicek and Ivanisevic, Chang was confronted by a wall of aces. Courier produced five in the third game to stay in contention and took the set off his one break point after 58 minutes.

On the evidence of their previous six encounters, all of which have ended in straight sets — three to Courier, three to Chang — the match was effectively over and even the deadpan Chang was starting to vent his frustration at his inability to break. After netting a volley on another break point in the second game of the second set, he swatted the net in anger.

One game later and he had been broken again, with two unforced errors. From 1-4 down, there was no return even for the indefatigable American, though Courier took five match points to complete the job in just under

two hours. Before the calculations were brought out last night, the two definite qualifiers were Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic, who, on their form through the week, are favourites to meet in the final.

Sampras, the champion, headed his group with three victories, over Becker, Edberg and Petr Korda, and had the benefit of a day off yesterday while others slogged it out for the final two places.

Since failing to qualify for the semi-finals in 1990, the year he won the US Open in such spectacular style, Sampras has lost only once in the Festhalle to Becker. The surface, described by Becker as "slow" and by Courier as "fast", is, according to the American, of "medium" speed. Either way, it seems to suit his game well.

"It is a court where you can stay back, but I think the serve and volley will beat the baseline," Sampras said. "But I have always played very well in Germany." Though he

has come to within touching distance of being world No. 1 this year, Sampras's immediate priority, apart from defending his ATP tour title, is to win a second grand slam tournament.

His best chance came in September when he reached the final of the US Open, only to find Edberg in inspired mood. Beating the Swede in the round-robin match earlier this week gave Sampras some compensation. "I definitely wanted to get that monkey off my back because the US Open loss was very disappointing. I still feel it today."

Sampras went straight back to his home in Florida after being badly beaten by Henri Leconte in the Paris Open. "That was a smart decision. I just played some golf and got my batteries recharged. If I'd have stayed around the tournament I would have begun to feel sorry for myself."

RESULTS: Rod Laver group: J Courier (US) vs M Chang (US), 7-5, 6-2. Sees struggles, page 34

Tribunal trims Lamb's fine

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ALLAN Lamb secured a significant victory yesterday when, on becoming the first player for six years to take a disciplinary appeal to the Cricket Council, he succeeded in almost halving his punishment for making public accusations of ball-tampering against the touring Pakistanis.

A five-man tribunal at Lord's, chaired by Judge Perrett QC, clearly saw the merit in Lamb's argument that his Test and County Cricket Board (CCCB) fine of £5,000, additional to a fine of £2,000 imposed by Northamptonshire, was inconsistent with the suspended fine of only £1,000 imposed last month on Surrey for three admitted offences of ball-tampering. The tribunal reduced the fine to £4,000 and suspended half that amount for two years. By cutting the award of costs, against the player, from £1,000 to £500, the council effectively reduced Lamb's out-of-pocket expenses from £3,000 to £4,500.

The CCCB maintained that the case involving Lamb and Surrey could not be compared, but the tribunal's view was that Lamb had a reasonable sense of grievance over being punished so much more heavily for alleging an offence than the county had been for committing it. It agreed that his blatant and undisputed breach of contract was a "grave" case but took into account his previously unblemished record.

1993 fixtures, page 32
Indian struggle, page 35

Krabbe's sentence is upheld

KATRIN Krabbe, the world sprint champion, yesterday lost the first round of her fight against a four-year suspension for illicit drug-taking (John Goodbody writes).

After a meeting of the German athletics federation (DLV), Ruediger Nickel, its anti-doping official, said: "There is no reason to change our decision." He said that Krabbe and two other German athletes could make another appeal to the DLV's arbitration panel.

Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr admit taking clenbuterol in July. They say they were suffering from asthma, for which clenbuterol is a licensed medication in Germany.

The DLV said that it wanted a more "flexible" stance on drug-taking. Instead of the automatic four-year ban of the International Amateur Athletic Federation for clenbuterol, it wanted the chance to assess the "responsibility" of the competitor.

It is debatable whether clenbuterol was officially banned before July 31, when the International Olympic Committee medical commission confirmed its prohibition.

EXHIBITION
TOURBILLONS
and a collection of rare
Swiss Horological Masterpieces
on view at
THE WATCH GALLERY
16th-28th November 1992.
The collection will be on view at the
120 Fulham Road,
London SW3 3LW from
16-21st November
and at the 100 Jermyn Street,
London SW1 1JL from
23rd-28th November.
For details regarding the Exhibition at
The Watch Gallery, Barcelona,
telephone 071 495 1230.

Going bust a serious handicap

It is occasionally pointed out to me that I have an irrational prejudice against golf. Well, prejudice I admit, but I think it is wholly rational, myself. Arvela Goodrum, of suburban Round Rock, Texas, was driving along Forest Creek Drive when she saw two women as she passed the eighth tee. "I was shocked," she said. "I turned back and went to see if I really saw what I saw. The girls were topless."

It transpires that the managers of Sugar's Uptown Cabaret and a similar establishment called The Red Rose and Yellow Rose hold several tournaments each year at Round Rock golf course. Women from the clubs — whose normal duties involve semi-naked "dancing" — drive the golf carts and serve food in the tournaments. "We tell them to wear golf attire," Howard Lennett, manager of Sugar's, said. Is it simply for

this that 164 golfers paid \$100 each to play? The manager of the Red Rose and Yellow Rose, Hank Fromme, said: "We ask the girls to use discretion, but because of where they work, it's not unusual for the girls to take their tops off. I talked to the pro, J. L. Lewis. He understood that these kind of things could happen." "It's news to me," Lewis said.

I don't know when St Andrews will take the idea up, but a new golf club in Malaysia has imported 120 Indonesian women to act as caddies. Officials said: "It will provide a different atmosphere to the traditionally male-dominated sport."

Net loss

Simon Barnes Sporting Diary

I think it is high time we had some more sporting limericks. After all, it is six years since I last held a limerick competition, so break out the rhyming dictionaries, get those pencils sharpened and send me the slickest limericks you can invent. I will reward

Over-ruler

Carlos Menem, the president of Argentina, took part in a charity football match recently in River Plate Stadium before 5,000 spectators and a television audience: the sort of thing that gets a politician the reputation for being a good sport. Menem's side was winning 3-2 when the opposition whacked the ball into the net, and the referee, Ricardo Calabia, duly signalled goal.

The president went berserk. He had a passionate argument with the referee, insisting that one of the opposition was offside. In the end, overwhelmed, the ref disallowed the goal. This gave enormous delight to all: a flagrant intervention of executive into judicial authority, the newspapers commented. This just happens to be an opposition party slogan.

Drunk in charge

In a recent football match in Poland, Warmia lost 4-1 at home against Jagielloni. They are protesting about this. The referee was drunk.

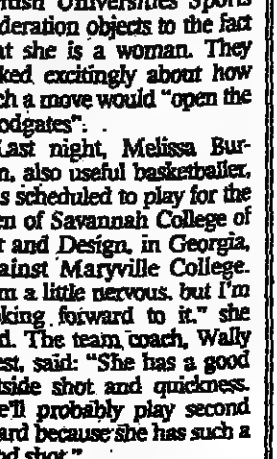
Mixed blessing

Where the Brits differ, Americans act. Last week, Jodi Evans, who was a member of Canada's Olympic basketball squad, learned that she could not play for Oxford University's team because the British Universities Sports Federation objects to the fact that she is a woman. They talked excitedly about how such a move would "open the floodgates".

Last night, Melissa Burden, also useful basketball player, was scheduled to play for the men's Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, against Maryville College. "I'm a little nervous, but I'm looking forward to it," she said. The team coach, Wally West, said: "She has a good outside shot and quickness. She'll probably play second guard because she has such a good shot."

Stitched up

In Tokyo, a protest march with a difference. "We are not asking for money but for the right to play golf," said Naoto Majima, who represents 2,000 members of Higashi Sagami golf course. The owner, Janome Sewing Machine Co., is planning to sell up to pay debts. Chinko Hayama, 52, a housewife, said: "It is too much. They are trying to deprive me of my only hobby."



WEEKEND

3

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 1992

Uncle Sam's animal crackers

Loving your pet is
one thing, but
in America
animal affairs are
getting serious.
Ben Macintyre
reports

A friend was reflecting recently on a Thanksgiving get-together he planned to attend at his childhood home in Minnesota this weekend. "She'll be really excited, because I haven't seen her for ages," he explained, "and when I get back she'll hear my car coming into the garage and I'll hear her voice calling from the kitchen. It's the first time we've all been together for months."

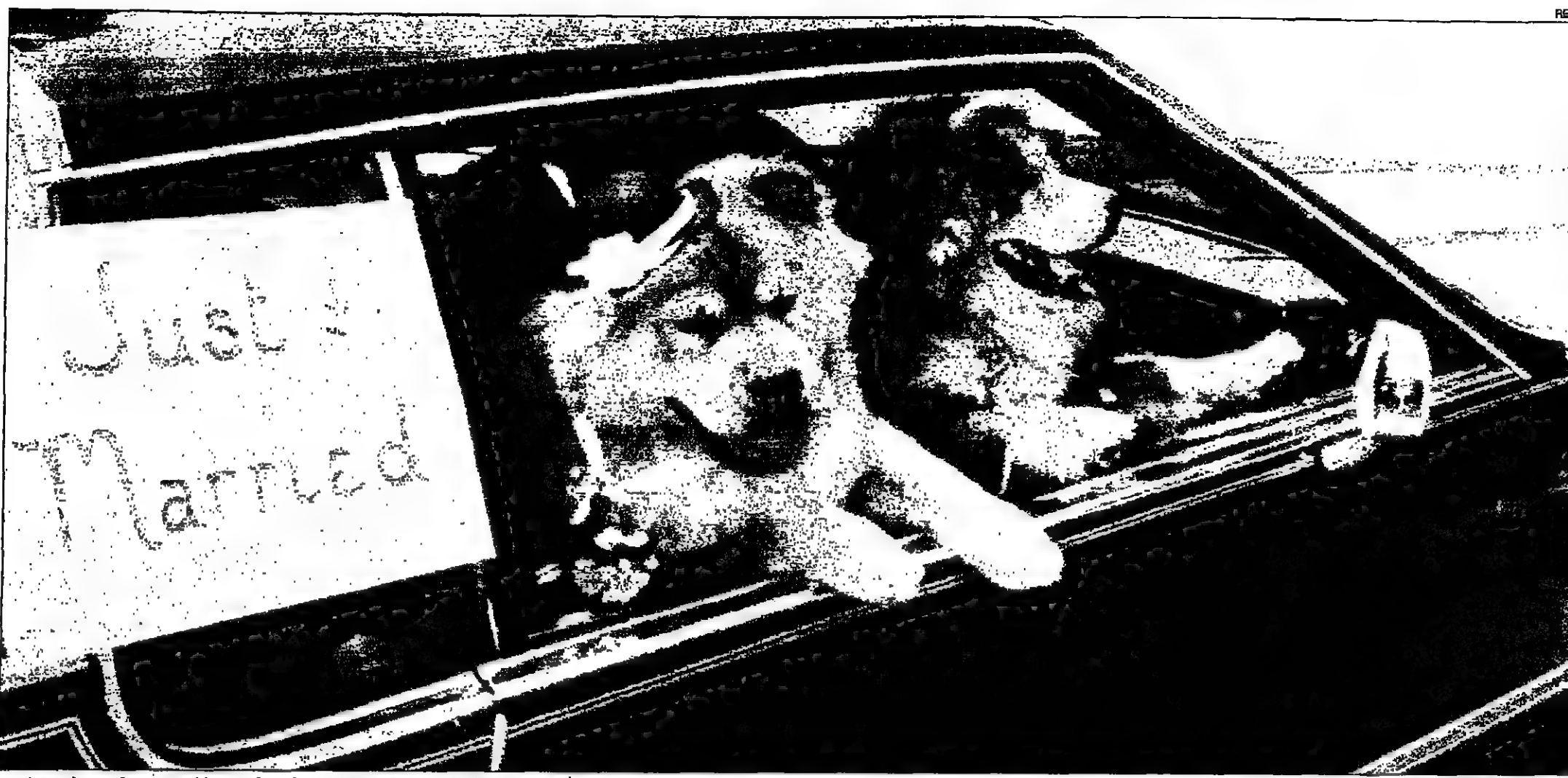
For a man who seldom shows much emotion it was, I thought, a moving testament, an exhibition of the sort of family values that would make Dan Quayle proud. Until I realised my friend was talking not about his grey-haired mother, but about a parrot called Ootiline.

For millions of Americans, Thanksgiving is an opportunity for reunion, with relations certainly, but also with the swarms of fish, budgies, dogs, cats, mice, Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs and pythons that make up the American family.

The British like to think of themselves as animal-lovers, but beside the American obsession with pets our attitude towards the domestic animal kingdom appears positively stand-offish. Americans spend nearly \$2 billion annually on pets, and the feeding, clothing, psychoanalysing and burying of domestic animals represents a massive and lucrative industry. There are more pets per family in the US than anywhere else in the world, with more than 60 per cent of American households containing at least one pet. Last year alone Americans bought \$250 million-worth of goldfish, while members of Congress received more letters about animal welfare than about any other single subject.

There are scientific explanations for this. According to recent research, pets bring down blood pressure, reduce heart disease and provide stimulation for the old, the young and the criminally inclined that friends and family cannot. "The increasing urbanisation and alienation within our society leads to a loneliness that is often fulfilled by animals," says Dr Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, a Massachusetts vet and anthropologist who studies people and their pets.

In New York, where the patronising description "pet" is gradually being replaced by the more egalitarian term "companion animal", you can even buy authentic pet, sorry, companion animal



Marriage of man and beast four-legged friends have feelings too; in New York the patronising description "pet" is gradually being replaced by the more egalitarian term "companion animal"

videos which provide "all the warmth and comfort of an animal friend" without all the fur balls and house-training.

The domestic pet even plays a part in the political life of America. The intelligence and wit of Millie, the spaniel and best-selling author belonging to George and Barbara Bush, formed a central plank of the Republican election campaign. At times, the dog even appeared to be running for office. "Millie knows more about foreign policy," said the president, "than those two boxes Bill Clinton and Al Gore."

Since Bill Clinton's election, hundreds of column inches in the most serious newspapers have been devoted to the Clintons' cat, Socks, his (or indeed, her, according to certain Washington sources) possible significance and effect on the American governing process.

Choosing the right pet is, according to the brochures, a life-enhancing experience. Take the case of Jim Chapman. In 1989, Mr Chapman had a heart attack that left him clinically dead for four minutes. When he came to, he found he had developed an obsession with llamas, which he immediately passed on to his wife, Jan.

The couple completely remodelled their San Diego garden into a small slice of the Andes and

introduced ten llamas, who now join them to watch television at night. Mr Chapman, who bought the animals to thank God for his recovery, is even said to kiss his llamas on the lips. (There is a nasty rash of this sort of thing going around. One American pet magazine recently put out a warning to parrot owners not to kiss their pets on the mouth after some ugly pecking incidents. Parrots are notoriously prudish.)

Of course, the hapless llama may eventually join the Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, the pet of choice during the affluent 1980s, thousands of which have now been abandoned, left with animal welfare agencies or even, sad to report, eaten — victims of the cruel vagaries of animal fashion. (But llamas are bolshier than Vietnamese pigs, and no doubt flocks of rejected and television-starved llamas will one day be found wandering the streets of San Diego, smogging with tourists and spinning on policemen.)

The American preoccupation with animals produces displays of great affection, as well as violent hatred and a special sort of madness, as Renee Solomon can attest. Ms Solomon is a quiet, bespectacled professor at Columbia University and the sort who would not, in most circumstances, hurt a fly.



Media mega-star: Bill Clinton's famous furry friend, Socks

In the spring of last year the Epsteins, her neighbours in the Manhattan high-rise where she lives, began leaving bird seed on their terrace. Ms Solomon soon found that she was being woken at dawn by myopic pigeons crashing into her windows, her sills, where the birds roosted, became a sea of guano. At first she just slipped a note under the Epsteins' door, telling them that "in the city, if you try to feed birds you will get pigeons".

But the birds kept coming, and when Ms Solomon returned home to find bullet-holes in her windows after someone had started taking pot-shots at the infuriating birds, she informed the building superintendent, who smeared her window ledge with a special pigeon-repelling gel.

The Epsteins were livid, and informed the American Society for

the Protection of Birds, who sent round their Officer Hernandez, who said the gel was too thick and a threat to small birds. The battle escalated: the Epsteins and Mr Hernandez started leaving angry and vaguely threatening messages on Ms Solomon's answering machine and then, last December, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) raided her flat while she was on holiday and took photographs of the offending sill.

A few weeks later, Ms Solomon was sitting in her university office when Mr Hernandez and several armed policemen burst in and arrested her. She, understandably, kicked one of the officers in the shins, and was handcuffed, locked in a cell and charged with killing birds and resisting arrest.

The charges were later dropped, but Ms Solomon is now suing her

neighbours and the city for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and slander. She hopes to get \$4 million, after an episode which finally proves what one had always suspected: New Yorkers' love of animals is inversely proportional to their love of humanity.

For while many Americans are prepared to bury their relatives with a minimum of fuss, pets (as Evelyn Waugh noted) are accorded the sort of funeral trappings reserved for cardinals and criminals in most countries.

The Long Island Pet Cemetery scandal is still a bitter memory for many New Yorkers, who regard the multiple murders carried out by the likes of John Gotti as mere peccadilloes. The owners of this cemetery, it transpired, were not burying or cremating each beloved pet separately but throwing the dead animals into mass graves or burning them en masse. The crime was apparently discovered when the owner of a dead budgerigar was presented with a package of cremated remains containing a canine molar.

Of all the many things dividing this great, heterogeneous nation, perhaps none is more acute than the gulf between those who love, and those who want to destroy, animals. It is currently the deer-

hunting season in America, when otherwise gentle souls arm themselves to the teeth and venture into the woods and mountains to kill, some by traditional shot and shell, but increasingly using bows and arrows, crossbows and even ancient muskets. As in Italy, a substantial number of hikers, ornithologists and teenage lovers are also bagged every year.

The right to bear arms is enshrined in the constitution, but the right to kills things is not. Most members of the National Rifle Association, the principal lobby group opposing gun control, deplore the fantastic level of gun violence in the country, but they are fully aware that once the government declares a closed season on drug-dealers, the elk may well be next.

But the peculiar relationship between the American and his or her animal — domestic or wild, whether viewed on video or through a telescopic sight — is a remarkable thing, involving imagination, expense and, above all, sacrifice.

When Virginia lawyer Derleek Crandall recently discovered that his asthma was getting worse, his allergist told him bluntly that he must get rid of his Siamese cat. Mr Crandall fired his allergist.

Domestic crime and punishment

Excuse me madam, would you accompany me to the kitchen?

No wonder *Crimewatch UK* is such a popular programme, and compulsory viewing for both criminals and non-criminals alike. Englishmen — and this is where Basil Fawcett rang so many bells — love a bit of amateur policing. Many women I have spoken to consider that their husbands are policemen *manqués* and like nothing more than to come home to catch their wife "at" some petty crime, such as putting her feet up or talking on the phone at peak time.

Coming home for lunch exhausted from working out of doors, pruning other people's apple trees or laying a hedge, my own husband does not collapse in a chair with a pint of Goliath ale. Instead he goes directly to my office to check that the thermostat on my Dimplex heater is set at a minimum. On his way through the house towards my office, which is so small that we call it "the slit", his hands reach out

octopus-like to switch off lights and central heating and to pour most of the recently boiled water out of the kettle. "No point heating up more than you need — it contributes to global warming."

There is nothing warm about our cottage, which stands in the teeth of a permanent gale that sweeps up the plain towards it. A plain where only prostrate trees survive, although he has planted hundreds to shelter the house to save on heating bills (and to give him a chance to police the weeds).

"You shouldn't need the heating on in November — what is going to happen when it's really cold?" he barks. "People have forgotten how to dress warmly — jerseys, long-johns, vests, get them on!"

My problem is that I don't want

to clad myself like a hot-water tank because if I do it means I can't move my arms. As I usually spend most of the day at a word processor, this is a constant source of conflict, as is his declaration that "if you want to keep warm in a cottage you have to keep moving".

The telephone is another danger zone, and more than one of our friends has pointed out the similarity between ourselves and Sybil and Basil Fawcett. He has a rigid rule about not ringing anyone until after six, a practice that has lost him at least one important artistic commission. I

WEEKEND
VOICEMARY
KILLEN

received a message one morning from one of London's top interior designers. "We have an Arab client who wants a mosaic floor in one of his bathrooms. Your husband is the only person we can think of who

could do it. Can you get in touch with him and get him to ring us straight away?" I tracked him down and gave him the message. That night I rang again excitedly. "What happened about the mosaic floor?"

"Well, there was no answer."

"There couldn't have been no answer. They've got a huge West End office."

"Well, there was no answer."

"What time did you ring them?"

"Five past six — cheap time." Tired of waiting, they had persuaded the client to have a different type of floor in the meantime.

"Did you have anything important to say?" he asked his mother in a Dalek-like voice when she telephoned the other day — "because I'm a very busy man."

The reason he is so busy is that he runs his own one acre of land organically and a lot of time is spent covering the ground in old newspapers so as to stop weeds germinating. The rest of the time is spent placing stones on top of the newspapers to stop them blowing away.

This leaves him some time to police my shopping and berate me for having bought wrong things. The other day I looked at our calendar to see in my own section: "Check what we have already got too much of. Then buy more of the same thing."

In his formative years his own father used to "police" him for things like leaving the hot tap running. "Don't leave it running. Hot water is like blood!"

The motorway brings out the latent policeman in him like no other activity. When it says "50mph mandatory speed limit", he will switch to the fast lane and "sit" there at 50mph to stop others from exceeding the limit.

This puts us in as much danger as driving at speed on the hard shoulder would, with cars undertaking us and bearing down from all directions.

"Why don't you just join the police force? Just give in to it!" I cried recently. "It's obviously what you want. And you'd get a salary."

He looked sheepish. "Can't I be an attendant in a public park instead?" he asked. "I'd much rather tell off children for going on the flower beds than deal with frightening men with crowbars."

Sip it, Pipit

A report in the El Watan Daily, of Algiers, caught our eye the other day.

It concerned an unfortunate who had been attacked by five ruffians, and who had lost his voice as a result.



Several doctors and psychiatrists, it seemed, could do nothing for ZIANE BENSABLI, 28, until someone hit on the sensible notion of treating him with whisky, whereupon he recovered in a matter of days. The brand of whisky was not revealed in the report.

But it is certain that, had it been The Macallan Malt Whisky with its

mouth-stroking sherry notes, he would have been WARBLING

like a dizz ilma* in a matter of minutes.

The Macallan. The Malt.

*Small Algerian Rock Pipit.

صباحنا للأمل

THEATRE

LONDON

ANNE GET YOUR GUN: Kim Criswell and John Diederich join what comes naturally in a revival of Irving Berlin's hit-packed musical *Prince of Wales*, Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5987). Preview tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; opens Wed, 7pm; then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

ASSASSINS: Sondheim's sharp and successful musical about killers of American presidents. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.



Drama: Jane Asher, Rufus Sewell in *Making it Better*

HAY FEVER: Maria Aitken and John Standing bewilder the weekend guests in Coward's excellent comedy. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Preview Tues, Wed, 8pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It coarsens the story of Manuel Puig's novel but Chita Rivera makes a striking vamp. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5599). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

LOST IN YONKERS: Tartan performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman is good value as a loopy aunt. Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

MACBETH/THE TEMPEST: English Shakespeare Company in London for three weeks with its latest modern dress productions: Tony Haygarth as the ambitious laird; John Woodvine the exiled Prospero. The Royal, Portico Street (off Kingsway), WC2 (071-404 5020). *Macbeth*: Tues, 7.30pm, Wed, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; *Tempest*: Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

MAKING IT BETTER: Liza, treachery and ambition revealed as an English couple harbour two Czechoslovakian exiles. Jane Asher heads an exceptional cast in James Saunders's play. Citarion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

OUR SONGS: Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play about a menopausal male's infatuation with a young woman. Needy done though we only hear the man's point of view. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

STAGES: Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's elegy for lost times and places. Lindsay

Anderson directs. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Wed, next Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, next Sat, 4pm.

TENDER IS THE MORTAL: Scandinavian week at the Pte. Rehearsed readings of Enquist's *Rain Snakes*: H.C. Andersen tries to persuade patrons to help him find fame as a tragedian (Mon, 7.15pm); Lars Loren's *Autumn* and *Winter*: unwanted truths at a family dinner (Tues, 7.15pm); *Burnt Malt*: adapted by Peter Whelan from the Icelandic saga (Wed, 7.30pm). Performances of Belman's Opera, directed by Clifford Williams: Knights of Bacchus speaking truth in drink (tomorrow, 3pm, 8pm, Thurs, 3.45pm, 7.15pm); Julian Glover in *Beowulf* (Wed, 5pm). The Pte, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891).

THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD: Harriet Walter perfect again in revival of this subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of shifting values and plummeting art-prices. Royal Court, Smeaton Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts, male and female, in Giles Havergal's marvellous version of Graham Greene's novel. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

WEDFORD TRILOGY: Billy Roche's affectionate, sad, comic Wedford Trilogy (separate plays, connected in mood). *A Handful of Stars*: Killing time in a pool hall leads to doing time in jail. *Poor Beast in the Rain*: a man who took a friend's wife off to England returns after ten years. *Betty*: a gentle sadist falls in love with another man's wife. Bush, Stephens Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). *Betty*: today, Fri, 8pm; Stars: Mon, Tues, 8pm; *Poor Beast*: Wed, Thurs, 8pm.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH: Brad Fraser, although young Canadian playwright, gets his first UK premiere with *Unidentified Human Remains* and *The Nature of Love*; sex, a serial killer, and deep trouble for Edmonton hedonists. Traverse, Cambridge Street (031-228 1404). Preview Fri, 8pm; opens Sat (Nov 28), 8pm; then Tues, Sun, 8pm.

HARROGATE: Vincent Franklin plays *Frango* again, this time in *The Barber of Seville*, combining the Beaumarchais play with Rossini music. Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street (0423 502116). Tues-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat (from Nov 28), 2.30pm.

LEEDS: Bernard Lloyd as Teyve, Beverly Klein as Golda, trying to make out their daughters in *Barbarian On The Road*. West Yorkshire Playhouse. Quarryhill Mount (0522 442111). Preview from Fri, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7.30pm; then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats (from Dec 5), Wed, 2pm and Sat, 4pm.

LICESTER: Paul Karyson brings the Jets and Sharks together in *West Side Story*. Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (0533 539737). Preview tonight, Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats (from Dec 5) Wed and Sat, 4.30pm.

NORWICH: After its £3.5 million refurbishment the theatre reopens with the RSC's sublimely funny *Comedy of Errors*, with Desmond Barrie who won an Olivier award for his performance as two twins. Theatre Royal, Theatre Street (0603 630000). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.



Purcell players: (l to r) Andrew Watts, Richard Earle, Timothy Mason, Martin Neary, Celia Harper (see Music)

FILM

LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (18): Les Carax's hymn to Paris and a punk bum's love for a young artist going blind. Tartan in spurts. Metro (071-437 0757).

THE CRYING GAME (18): Boid Neil Jordan film about an IRA gunman obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson. Curzon West End (071-439 4805) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

HUSBANDS AND WIVES (15): Woody Allen's best film in years, a lacerating tale of collapsing New York marriages. With Allen and Mia Farrow among the cast. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (12): Romance and adventure in the American colonies with frontiersmen Daniel Day-Lewis. Shallow version of the classic novel; director Michael Mann. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-436 6279/379 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

PETER'S FRIENDS (15): College pals meet up after a decade for a gig mixture of laughter and

tears. Kenneth Branagh directs. Ernie Thompson, Stephen Fry, Rita Rudner and himself. Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Chelsea (071-252 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Plaza (071-487 9999) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

RAPID FIRE (18): Part cop thriller, part kung fu showcase for Bruce Lee's son Brandon. Splendid fun for genre fans. Director, Dwight H. Little. MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-638 0310).

Whoopi Goldberg: hiding out as a nun in Sister Act

SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (18): New room-mate proves a crackpot. Nicely atmospheric, but the crudities mount. Bridget Fonda, Jennifer Jason Leigh; director, Barbet Schroeder. Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) Leicester Square (0426 915683) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

SISTER ACT (PG): Whoopi Goldberg hides out in a convent. Contrived but disarming, warm-hearted comedy. Maggie Smith as the Mother Superior. Director, Barbet Schroeder. MGM Chelsea (071-552 5096) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT (15): New print of Bergman's lovely, scintillating comedy about mismatched couples (1955). Starring Eva Dahlbeck, Bibi Andersson, Barbra Streisand. Barbican (071-638 8891).

SNEAKERS (12): Technology feeds chase a lethal microp. Bright, sassy caper comedy with a starry cast (Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier, Dan Aykroyd, Ben Kingsley). Director, Phil Alden Robinson. Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG): One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Excellent, intoxicating debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio. Barbican (071-638 8891) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-638 0310) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Renoir (071-837 8402) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

TETSUO IS BODYHAMMER: Quiet family man mutates into metal-encrusted killing machine. Releasable monstrosity from Tokyo's Tsukamoto. ICA (071-930 3647).

TWIN PEAKS: FIRE WALK WITH ME (18): David Lynch's dislikeable prequel to the cult television series, with Sheryl Lee as the resurrected Laura Palmer. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Gate (071-727 4043) Lumiere (071-836 0691) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

DANCE

MAYERLING: Tonight Zoltan Solymosi and Leanne Benjamin, as Crown Prince Rudolf and Mary Vetsera, make their debuts in the leading roles in MacMillan's violent tale of the suicidal lovers of the Austro-Hungarian court. This afternoon, trek Mukhammedov and Viviana Durante star, a performance they repeat on Thursday night. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-340 1066). Today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thurs, 7.30pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: The company opens its Seder's Wells season on Tuesday with two London premieres: *Motorcade* (art to Saint-Saens' Septet) by the popular American choreographer Mark Morris, and *Reverie*, for which Christopher Bruce turned to the music of the Rolling Stones. Performed on a raised ball with Arnie Zane's Freedom of Information. Seder's Wells, Rosabery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Tues-next Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm.

THE KOSHI: This acrobatic dance troupe celebrates its tenth anniversary with a new version of its *Endangered Species*, a work inspired by the life of veteran circus performer and vaudevillian Johnny Hutch, who also co-choreographed and co-directed. The piece features a variety double act struggling to maintain their professional, and personal, sanity. Theatre, 269 Kilburn Highway, London NW5 (071-328 1000). opens Tues, until Dec 5, 8pm.

HAMLET: For its first visit to Britain, the Royal New Zealand Ballet is presenting its production of Shakespeare's tale, which features medieval-style music played on traditional instruments by musicians who take part in the stage action. The choreography is by the British dancer-maker Jonathan Taylor, the music by the New Zealand composer William Southgate. Derrigate, 19-21 Guildhall Road, Northampton (0604 24811). Tues-next Sat, 7.30pm.

EVENINGS OUT

SALLY CLARKE

CHEF AND RESTAURATEUR



I've never really liked Ken Russell's films as I have a weak stomach when it comes to on-screen violence, but his updated production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida* at the London Coliseum intrigues me. It's set in the year 2000 when Buckingham Palace has become a theme park, and he's used characters based on the royal family—including the corgis. As a serious opera fan, I am not generally that keen on operettas, but this sounds like a fun evening out. The new Kenneth Branagh film *Peter's Friends* sounds right up my street too. I'm ashamed to say I've never seen Kenneth Branagh on stage or in films, so I'm especially keen to see it. Afterwards I'd go to eat at Riva in Barnes. I love the northern Italian cuisine, and because it is a little out in the sticks, I find it has an extra special ambience in the evening. (Usually my evenings consist of leaving work late, with a takeaway under my arm...) ?

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

HUDDERSFIELD CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Tomorrow night sees the British premiere of Gerard Grisey's *Le Noir de l'Étoile*, a multi-media piece which uses the frequencies of five pulsar signals from Jodrell Bank as tempo to generate rotations of sound and light. The audience sits surrounded by six percussionists, while above their heads the sounds of interstellar space are accompanied by a computer-controlled light show. Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Tourist Information Centre, Albion Street, Huddersfield (0484 430808).

THEATRE: The former Velvet Underground member returns to the UK after an absence of several years performing simple but resonant piano and voice arrangements. Festival Hall, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

PRINCESS IDA: Ken Russell's camp new staging of Gilbert and Sullivan's wry look at women's education. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Mon, Tues, Fri, 7.30pm.

DANNY THOMPSON'S WHATEVER: The distinctive bass player whose varied musical past has included forays into folk and rock, performs with his band, Metro, Bury (051-761 2216). Thurs, 8pm. MAC, Birmingham (021-440 3838), Fri, 7.45pm.

BRIGHTON JAZZ BOY '92: Highlights of this year's dance event include soul artist Omar, American jazz funk pianist Eddie Russ, Latin percussionists Snowboy and singer Martine Girault. Event, Brighton (01273 732627), Fri, 8pm-2am.

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH: The Northern band offer lyrics with a social conscience wrapped up in sweet, catchy pop tunes. NEC Arena, Birmingham (021-780 4133), Mon, 6pm. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (081-900 1234), Tues, 7.30pm. Arena, Sheffield (0742 585858), Wed, 6.30pm.

JOHN CABLE: The former Velvet Underground member returns to the UK after an absence of several years performing simple but resonant piano and voice arrangements. Festival Hall, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

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OPERA

BOW DOWN: Harrison Birtwistle's gruesome music theatre piece, to a text by Tony Harrison based on an ancient ballad about two sisters in love with the same man, is presented in new production by Graham Davis. The programme also includes the first European staging of *Parabola*, a treatment of the story of Daedalus by the Australia-based British composer Andrew Ford. St Paul's Hall, Huddersfield (0484 430808), Mon, 7.30pm. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Thurs, 7.45pm.

MECKLENBURGH OPERA: The award-winning company presents the one act chamber opera *Petrified* by the Czechoslovakian composer Jural Benet. The opera was written in 1974, six years after the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, and is based on the work of the 19th-century Slovak nationalist poet, Janko Král (1822-1876). The Place, London WC1 (071-387 0031), Thurs-next Sat, 8pm.

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BRIGHTON JAZZ BOY '92: Highlights of this year's dance event include soul artist Omar, American jazz funk pianist Eddie Russ, Latin percussionists Snowboy and singer Martine Girault. Event, Brighton (01273 732627), Fri, 8pm-2am.

ROCK

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH: The Northern band offer lyrics with a social conscience wrapped up in sweet, catchy pop tunes. NEC Arena, Birmingham (021-780 4133), Mon, 6pm. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (081-900 1234), Tues, 7.30pm. Arena, Sheffield (0742 585858), Wed, 6.30pm.

JOHN CABLE: The former Velvet Underground member returns to the UK after an absence of several years performing simple but resonant piano and voice arrangements. Festival Hall, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

PRINCESS IDA: Ken Russell's camp new staging of Gilbert and Sullivan's wry look at women's education. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Mon, Tues, Fri, 7.30pm.

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the winner is on Tuesday. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until Nov 28.

EDWARD MUNCH: This large show is devoted to the paintings, drawings and prints made by Munch in the 1890s and features some 85 pieces drawn from three great Norwegian collections. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-839 3321). Daily, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), until Feb 7 1993.

TOM PHILLIPS: As well as being a painter, the Royal Academician is a poet, musician, printmaker and book artist. Most of these talents are shown off, along with his pet obsession, in this selection. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-928 8800), until Dec 20.

SALEROOMS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: The estate of Napoleon is recalled in furniture sales at Phillips, Tuesday, 11am, and Sotheby's, Friday, 10.30am. The former have an 18th-century Spanish armchair which he used aboard the *Northumberland* en route to St Helena (estimated up to £1,500) and the latter an octagonal oak desk made for the emperor's use on the island by George Bullock (up to £50,000).

PHILLIPS, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602). Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080).

WEDNESDAY: Garbaldi, Grace Darling, Punch and Judy, the Malakoff and Sebastopol are among the Staffordshire figures in Beane's ceramics sale, 10am. In London, among the silver offered by Christie's, 11am, is a William and Mary tumbler cup, 1692 (up to £1,500). Sotheby's have 19th-century continental works, 11am and 2.30pm, including a portrait of the young Wlad Casel by Anders Zorn (up to £150,000). Sotheby's, Rainbow, Avenue Road, Torquay (0803 296277). Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, London SW1 (071-839 9060). Sotheby's (as above).

FRIDAY: In King Street, Christie's offer 19th-century continental paintings and watercolours. These include Miller's watercolour *First Steps* (up to £230,000), and a painting by Strindberg, *Belshazzar's Feast* (up to £150,000). Christie's (as above).

BOOKINGS

CRAZY FOR YOU: The Prince Edward Theatre is having a £3m refurbishment. Ready for the West End opening of the revamped Gershwin musical *Crazy For You* early next year. On Broadway, *Crazy For You* has won three Tonys with its mixture of classics ("Embraceable You", "I Got Rhythm") and rediscovered Gershwin songs. The London production is directed by Mike Ockent.

PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE: Old Compton Street, London W1 (071-734 8951), previews from Feb 18; opens Mar 3, 1993. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC: The swashbuckling hero is celebrated in director Elijah Moshinsky's new version of Rostand's tale about the character's unrequited love for his beautiful cousin Roxane. Robert Lindsay has his look extended for the part of Cyrano, while Stella Gonet gets the beauty treatment for the role of Roxane. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (071-930 8800), previews from Nov 28; opens Dec 14. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

ALICIA: Handel's opera — last seen at Covent Garden in 1962 — is given a new staging by the American director Stephen Wadsworth, widely acclaimed for his translations and staging of 18th-century operas and plays. Yvonne Kenny plays the enchantress who rules over the magic island and Ann Murray plays her sister Ruggiero. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), opens Dec 18.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: Former Talking Head David Byrne will be giving the European premiere of his 50-minute classical composition *The Forest* (with the Pro Arte Orchestra) to launch celebrations towards Human Rights Day on December 10. Also on the bill is singer Alison Moyet and the Balanescu Quartet. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Nov 29, 7pm.

VIDEO

The real reason why the royals are looking so glum

Alone among those who follow the saga of the allegedly troubled marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, I am in a position to make certain disclosures which may explain their apparent gloom. I know it seems unlikely that a mere farmer should hit upon the truth when the professional royal-watchers have given their undivided attention, but they spend too much time peering through telephoto lenses when they would be better scanning the small print of the agricultural journals. Therein lies the real reason the Waleses are depressed.

It is because he is a farmer. And it matters not one jot that he is the second highest person in the land: his farm is probably going down the pan as fast as every other one in Britain. Cuts in subsidies, environmental pressures, Brussels regulations, wet harvests... farmers, believe me, get edgy, and their

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

wives fed up with the constant complaining. Everyone has suffered and no farmer can pull rank.

There is only one solution, we are repeatedly told. Diversify! Be inventive and come up with new ideas for using your land and your crops. Well, the Prince of Wales has come up with a cracking idea and, by strange coincidence, a similar one crossed my mind at roughly the same time. And I can tell you that since the incidence of marital frost in this household has greatly increased. He has my sympathy.

His idea was to take his surplus oats and wheat and bake the mixture into biscuits. He is going to stamp on each one his own insignia — the three feathers — and, as he is

not as skint as most farmers, he will sell them in aid of charity. This is a classic example of what farmers are being urged to do. As diversification ideas go, it takes the biscuit.

My idea was to do with pigs. There is little profit in fattening pigs and sending them to market if you farm on a small scale, as we do; anyway, butchers do not like our black pigs and I do not care for their livestock markets so there is little chance of a profitable marriage there. Therefore, we have been turning pigs into joints of pork, selling them from the farm and making a modest shilling that way. But not quite enough shillings, so I decided to take the idea one step further and add even more value to the pigs by turning them



into sausages. Not having a heraldic stamp of my own to place upon the pack, I decided that they should be our village's own sausage, with a portion of the proceeds going towards a fund to restore the church

bells. To ensure democracy, I decided that the village would hold an election and, from three differently flavoured sausages on offer, vote for one to carry the village's name. That was the easy bit. The

scene now changes to the kitchen, where I found myself confronted with a plastic bag full of pigs' intestines, an attachment to the food-mixer with which to squirt the sausage-meat into the guts, and a row of herbs and spices. Like Farmer Jekyll, I started to mix my brew.

I imagine there were similar scenes at Highgrove, as the Prince got out his Kenwood Chef and put on his apron to create the perfect personal biscuit. I wonder if he got the same mocking from his spouse that I did. Did he have to suffer his family filing past his efforts and muttering "Yuck"?

And what happened at Highgrove when it came to the tasting? I offered my own princess my exciting blend of pigmeat, breadcrumbs and herbs and waited for a radiant beam to cross her face. All I got was a withering look worthy of Queen Mary. "Look, darling," I cried, "I am only doing this for the farm." It

was an outburst that could well have come from either of our farmhouse kitchens.

As I flung more herbs into the mixer, festooned intestine around the kitchen like Christmas streamers and scowled at my wife, I pondered what a snooper with a long lens would make of our facial expressions.

So the next time you open the newspaper and see a frosty royal expression, give it the benefit of the doubt. It could be simply that the prince has run up half a pound of his latest organic oat-and-nasturtium cookies and is getting a less than enthusiastic response.

Here, after working through sausages with garlic-and-paprika, gin-and-juniper-berry and sage-and-black-pepper, our marriage is rocked to its very foundations. If my wife had even the slightest praxial to head for Paris alone, she undoubtedly would.

Swansong for our gentle souls

In the Celtic and Norse extremities of these islands, a few still believe the older people in the Hebrides or the west of Ireland will warn you never to harm a swan: the swan is the guardian of the human soul, and the swan you injure may harbour the soul of someone you once loved.

In Shetland a flight of three swans still turns heads, commands respect. Norse lore has three Fates: the Three Nornes, representing past, present and future, and represented by three swans.

Such legends endure where nature is still a daily force to be placated or cursed or consulted. In lesser landscapes, where nature has been deadened and distanced, the human soul in its swan guise is ridiculed, poisoned, choked, shot, beaten-up, strangled, electrocuted, smothered in tar, even crucified with crossbow bolts. In such places swans have no future, a miserable present in some only a past.

An adult swan has no natural enemies, only man, who is as unnatural an enemy as a swan could ever conceive. For man is also the friend of swans. His hospitality has often sustained them where they might have failed. He feeds them, builds them sanctuaries, heals them. And, as the folklore of half the countries of the world testifies, he even becomes swan.

I have grown addicted to swans over 25 years, an addiction which stems from a craving for theatre-in-the-wild. My nature-writer's instincts are best served by those wildlife tribes which tread a wild stage for a living and dominate that stage utterly, with lives imbued by dramatic gesture — osprey, otter, badger, eagle, for example — but swans do it best.

If you grew up, as I did, with the idea of a swan as a curved stinging-prettiness on a parkland pond (or a matchbox, pub sign, toilet roll, theatre, chocolate box... see how we devalue the superlative to intimate

Jim Crumley writes of the lore and lives of the swans that tread a wild and increasingly dangerous stage

the mundane, you are unprepared for Arctic-sheened whoopers on a peat-black Skye loch, and the word "swan" is suddenly and stunningly redefined.

As with all theatre, the performance depends on its setting for effect. The nature of the stage the swans strut or swim or swan-fly (a different and more glorified motion than other forms of wild flight) transforms them uniquely. An enclosed setting — a pond, canal, tree-dark river — confers an air of suppressed tension on a swimming swan, an intimidating authority on a flying one.

A bland setting — a large, flat field where wintering swans graze in flocks — suggests something exotically oriental; brilliant imposters in the drab world of sheep. A wild Highland setting, in which wing-song or bugle-voice echoes back from a black crag, accords swans their due — the nearest thing to perfection in nature.

True, the theatre of swans is often of a Waiting for Godot-ish school, such is their capacity for doing almost nothing for hours on end, but the swan-watcher works in perpetual expectancy of that moment which unleashes the grand gesture. Besides, swans never do absolutely nothing, and impart measured grace to the most mundane actions, apart from walking. Even nature knows the worth of comedy in its most dramatic roles, an example from which

the Swan of Avon learnt much. Nonsense clings to swans as doggedly as myth. The one everybody quotes as indisputable truth is that a swan can break your arm with a single blow of a wing. Just as common is the absence of a shroud of evidence that it has actually happened. If you are frail, brittle-boned, crassly careless and cursed, it is probably possible.

Swan bones broken by humans, however, are indisputable and commonplace. In a recent Scottish court case the accused explained an assault on a swimming swan thus: "I was only skimming stones, your honour."

"You cannot," the sheriff said, "skim a brick." The angler who discards a yard or two of broken line, often with hook, is laying a snare which can maim or kill a swan. So is the wildfowler who peppers the shallows with lead shot. Along with the vandal, the egg-stealer, the brick-skimmer, they should face the same punishment as those who prey on eagles or ospreys or peregrines.

Swans which suffer at their hands often die slowly and in agony. When G.I. Doane wrote of the dying swan, "Death darkens his eyes and unplumes his wings, yet the sweetest song is the last he sings", it is safe to presume he had never had to handle a pair of mute swans with a brood of six cygnets which had been smothered in tar by vandals (the pair in question survived — seven hours to clean each bird — but they returned to the wild with one cygnet).

Without greater deterrents enshrined in law, the swan will eventually retreat to those Celtic and Norse shores of the land where a few old ones still believe.

Jim Crumley is the author of *Waters of the Wild Swan* (Jonathan Cape, £14.99). Feather report returns next week.



Jim Crumley and a flotilla of peace: without greater deterrents enshrined in law, the swan may retreat to less threatening shores

Farewell deadly pride

I NEVER saw lions without wishing to be among them. I always wanted to throw myself into their midst. I felt this urge most strongly after a kill: a great golden heap of lion, a perfect ecstasy of digestion, paws in the air, expressions of fatuous content and an atmosphere of glorious, lazy companionship.

At first I thought this was something to do with the urge to fling oneself off high buildings or into the path of Tube trains: the strange attractiveness of mortal danger. But I was forced to revise this theory: I didn't feel the same thing with any other dangerous beasts.

I felt no urge to swim with crocs and hippos. I felt no temptation to frolic with buffaloes. A leopard is too self-contained and remote to inspire dreams of cuddles: only admiration will do. And, though no one could fail to delight in the proximity of elephants, I felt no need to cast myself among them.

I thought this desire to frolic with lions was a personal aberration, but when I mentioned it to others they all confessed to the same urge: "I just want to leap out of the vehicle and curl up with them."

This seems the most natural

thing in the world. A number of things encourage it. For a start, in Luangwa you almost always have the beasts to yourself: no crowds of gawpers here. And then, of course, you are fairly close — say, five yards. Close enough to tingle the blood a little, anyway. Many a time I have been so close to lions I could have learnt from the vehicle and touched them. Indeed, it was an effort to stop myself.

A great big, lovely, peaceful pile of golden fur: that is a pride of well-fed lions. And our local pride was certainly well-fed. They had the drought to thank for that: long before the dry season had ended, the Luangwa river was virtually the only drinking water in the valley. Our pride — the Pride of Twelve — held a territory that ran for about six miles along the river banks.

For a lion, this was millionaires' row: the prey animals could not keep away. They would die of thirst if they did. For the lions, the drought was a time of plenty. There

BUSH TELEGRAPH Simon Barnes

were eight females and four young, maneless males: the entire pride was young, fit and fast. Perry Nyama, our game scout, called them "the deadly pride".

Nor was this a courtesy title. One morning, driving out from camp, we passed a herd of buffaloes walking up from the river. "They've been drinking at the Mwamba confluence," "Wasn't that where we saw the Twelve last night?"

It was. And we found a sight of devastation: the lions had killed three buffaloes in a sudden, violent orgy of killing. They had switched from peaceful content to ferocity in the blinking of an eye: about five

tons of meat lay on the sands.

Three mornings later nothing was left. In the perfect economy of the bush there is no waste: after the pride had extracted the lion's share, the hyenas, the vultures and the marabous devoured the rest.

Some people were fooled by the lions. They thought they were tame. Doodle. The illusion is understandable: in times of plenty a lion spends huge amounts of time resting, digesting, rolling around in a lovely great heap of lion. That lazy good fellowship is brought about by these brief, seldom-seen bursts of perfect ferocity.

There seems to be a deep split in lionine personality. Such drastic contrasts — docility and utter ferocity — come easily to them. Their complicated social life shows the same divided nature.

They are co-operative hunters with a savage loner's streak. At a kill, it is every lion for itself: you see cubs, ears back, fighting for a bite with swatting paws. Wild dogs run

back to the den with full bellies to regurgitate for their pups: not lions. A lion seems forever caught between independence and sociability: between selfish concerns and the pull of the pride. Mothers are known to abandon cubs to stay with the pride: equally, mothers abandon the pride to care for cubs.

This was the case with the Pride of Twelve: we had to reassess their status when we discovered two mothers, each with two young — known forever as the Fussy Cubs — attended sometimes by a particularly beautiful and experienced female with no tip to her tail ("Annie No-tip"). Sometimes, also, we found them with one or even two magnificent males.

The Twelve were merely the core of the pride. There were splinter groups and individual concerns to complicate matters. The mothers and the Fussy Cubs kept themselves to themselves. The big males did as they chose: occasionally turning up to share a kill with the Twelve: more often pursuing private concerns. For a male lion, private concerns are almost always protracted honeymoons of endless days and countless copulations.

Lions filled my mind for the months I lived in the valley: the subject of endless gossip; the stuff of dreams as they shook the camp at night with thundering roars. The rains have begun now, and, for the lions, the time of gluttony is over. The Fussy Cubs have grown and prospered, and already I long to see what the Twelve will be doing next season: no doubt the young males will be kicked out to fend for themselves, to become, years later, if they survive, strong enough to take over a pride of their own, and to spend their days in endless honeymoon.

Lions provided the lasting memory of the valley. I cannot forget the complications of that half-evolved social life — the constant dilemmas of a life that is caught forever between sociability and selfishness. But I left the valley and returned to the world of humankind — knowing I was rejoining a world caught forever in the same dilemma.

Simon Barnes stayed with Savannah Trails, Luangwa National Park, Zambia, which can be contacted through Wildlife Worldwide (0962 733051).



After the kill: a great golden heap of lion, a perfect ecstasy of digestion. Right: Simon Barnes takes a last look at the Luangwa valley

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مكتبة الأمل

FOOD SPY: CHEESE

Listeria hysteria cools off

I HAVE been expecting since midsummer an outbreak of listeria hysteria, but it has not come. In 1988, you remember, the dangers of listeria in soft cheese were presented as so desperate by the media that many people gave up eating soft cheeses altogether.

Others would eat only pasteurised soft cheeses, although most of the cases reported actually came from pasteurised cheese.

Between March and July this year there was a bad outbreak in France, with 105 cases of listeriosis identified and 24 deaths, three of whom were newborn infants. Six miscarriages also resulted. When listeria was hot news the tabloids would have gone wild at killer cheese across the Channel, and the serious press would have issued sober warnings.

But we've had other things on our minds this year, like the three Ms: Mammals, Molluscs and Marriages (royal). So there have been few column inches and television time available for the bug known as *Listeria monocytogenes*. The French outbreak was largely ignored in Britain.

The good news is that in this country listeriosis is declining. The better news for cheese fanatics is that many of the reported cases are connected with shop-bought pâté, not soft cheese. (Hard cheeses are safe, anyway.) I learn that the ongoing survey into listeriosis by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Colindale is finding pâté behind many of the current cases.

In any case, the trend is down. In 1987, reported cases in England and Wales doubled. In 1988 they rose further to 291, since when they have fallen steadily. In the first half of this year there were just 47 cases.

A sense of proportion is always important. The symptoms are

rather like influenza and, for most healthy people, listeriosis is not dangerous. For old, weak people and those suffering other illnesses the infection can be fatal. In pregnant women it can cause miscarriage. (Official advice for all pregnant women is still to avoid soft cheeses and pâté altogether.)

But many of us are naturally immune from listeriosis, and better hygiene in the milking parlours and dairies is gradually making soft cheese safer.

What is not yet over is the pasteurised versus unpasteurised cheese war. Colindale still insists that pasteurised cheese is safer when it comes to listeriosis. So do the French health authorities. But a counter-force of cheese experts, led by Major Patrick Rance, provides tough opposition.

Major Rance, author of the definitive *French Cheese Book* (Penguin, £12), is convinced that pasteurising milk actually encourages listeria *monocytogenes*. "It doesn't kill all the listeria bacteria," he says. "Some of them are merely stunned. And because other kinds of bacteria have been killed, the listeria bugs have a free run to breed." The major also believes that the chilling of milk after pasteurisation is good news for the bug. "Refrigeration enriches listeria," he says.

The Rance doctrine goes on to say that the acid balance of good raw milk kills the listeria bug, so why pasteurise?

The followers of Major Pat do not keep their cheese in the fridge. "Keep it in a small meat safe in a cool cupboard, or even in the back of the garage," he says. "Listeria won't flourish, and the cheese will taste better anyway. And, buy in small quantities."

FRANK JEFFERY

It is 5.30am and in a quiet corner of London's Chelsea Green members of the Fry family are setting up shop. Box after box of exotic fruit appears from the van: fresh Medjool dates from California, kumquats from Israel, American strawberries, Hawaiian pineapples and mangoes, and Jamaican ugli fruit.

Paul Fry, who has been up since 12.30am to get the pick of the market, starts to create the spectacular pavement display at the front of the corner shop, while inside his wife Maureen and son Colin replenish the shelves.

Each day the Frys spend up to three hours setting up. Everything is taken down the night before. Nothing is put back unless it is in perfect condition. Cauliflowers, lettuces and leeks are carefully trimmed, peaches, nectarines and plums rigorously checked for the slightest blemish.

Fry's is a Chelsea institution, green grocers to the rich and famous. Customers include politicians and judges, lords and ladies (and their cooks and butlers), captains of industry and celebrities — Jane Asher, Dirk Bogarde, Albert Finney, Felicity Kendal, Joan Plowright, Tom Stoppard and "a lot of minor actors". "We don't bow and scrape to any of them. They're treated just the same as anyone else," says Mrs Fry. "You did rush back to serve Albert Finney when you were going home the other day," Mr Fry reminds her.

In fact Fry's customers all get a first-class service. Mr Fry moves heaven and earth to track down out-of-season ingredients and delivers them to the doorstep (along with a bit of fish from the next door fishmonger if they haven't time to pick it up). He sends them when they have babies and, most obligingly of all, allows them to pay on tick.

"We're always paid eventually," says Mr Fry. "We only had one customer let us down. We tried everything. We found out she was moving and managed to get hold of her parents' address. We wrote saying we would have to take action if she didn't pay. Nothing."

"Eventually, we put a notice up in the shop saying 'Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mrs X' — we named her — 'whose outstanding account of £700 hasn't been paid...' and we got the money in three weeks."

Mr Fry was brought up in a council flat in Bishop's Road, Fulham, left home at 15 and started work as a bacon hand and delivery boy for Hawkins the grocer in Wandsworth Bridge Road. He has now been in the trade for 33 years, running his own shop for the last 11. Business, he says, is not as

Fiona Beckett discovers everything from cabbages to kiwano in a Chelsea greengrocer's

brisk as it was. "Since the recession, a lot of our wealthy customers have cut down on their entertaining."

Fortunately, Fry's is one of the best. It's not just the breadth of the range, from white raspberries to nasturtium flowers, but the fact that on almost every line he offers a choice. On a typical day you can buy six different kinds of mushroom, nine varieties of potato, ten to 12 different types of salad leaf and two sorts of shallot.

"I will always take on something for the novelty, even if I lose money on it," says Mr Fry. "If people are giving a dinner party they like to be one up. If they've got a kiwano [a horned melon] on the table it's a bit of a conversation piece."

He is always prepared to pay a premium for taste. "We get air-heated pineapples, which are more expensive, but they're not chilled and artificially held back. We stock vine-ripened insecticide-free tomatoes. They're expensive but they're good. A lot of fruit and vegetables don't taste of anything these days because they're refrigerated too much. With some winter tomatoes, if you shut your eyes, you can't tell what you're eating."

Customers get honest advice about quality. "If they ask what the apples are like today, we don't just say 'lovely'. If they're a bit tart or a bit soft we tell them. We always let our customers try things, unless it's something like a melon or pineapple. It might cost us 25p, but we want them to be satisfied. We want them to come back the day after."

In fact, prices are not sky-high: mangetout at £2 a lb; Kenya beans at £1.80; seedless grapes 60p; apples 30p; oranges five for 60p. "I'm not saying we're always cheap, but if you take a list of 20 basic items and compare us with the local supermarkets we'd be on a par or cheaper. We have old girls who come in just for an onion and a carrot. That's no problem. We realise it's difficult for people living on their own."

Old-fashioned pickled onions
4lb/1kg 800g pickling onions
or shallots
4oz/110g rock salt



Try before you buy: Maureen and Paul Fry's customers get honest advice — and a free taste first

100g of 275ml water
2oz/1150ml milk vinegar
4oz/110g brown sugar
8 bay leaves, 4 cloves
4 heaped tsp coriander seeds
8 thin slices of fresh ginger
a few small dried chillies
2 sticks of cinnamon, broken in half
4 blades of mace

Peel the onions by scalding them in

boiling water. The skins will slip off easily. Put them in a bowl and cover with the water in which you have dissolved the rock salt. Leave for 24 hours then drain, rinse and dry well.

Pack the onions into hot jars and cover with the cold vinegar into which you have mixed the brown sugar and spices. (If you like a sweeter pickle, increase the sugar by one ounce.) In each jar there

should be one or two bay leaves, a clove, a full teaspoon of coriander seeds, two slices of ginger, one or two chillies, half a stick of cinnamon and a blade of mace.

Finally, seal the jars and keep for at least three weeks, preferably three months.

● Fry's of Chelsea, 14 Cole Street, London SW3 (071-589 0342). Opening times: Mon-Fri 5.30am-5pm, Sat 5.30am-1.30pm.

Beaujolais goes down well

Mixed reviews: there are good glugs among this year's vintage, says Jane MacQuitty

Sub 1992 beaujolais nouveau and you will miss out. Dragged down by the recession, devaluation and dark days, a light, fruity, uncomplicated glass of 1992 beaujolais nouveau is one of this winter's rare treats. Pedants and purists maintain that beaujolais nouveau has had its day. The truth is that Thresher's recently doubled its early '92 beaujolais nouveau orders at the request of its wine shop managers. Georges Dubouche has sold more than double its 1991 total, and Sainsbury's will sell 2,000 extra cases this year.

Apart from well-stocked shelves, the other good news is '92 beaujolais nouveau's keen price. Plenty of wines are under £3 a bottle this year, and even Joseph Drouhin's top-drawer Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau is less than a fiver.

What is remarkable about 1992 beaujolais nouveau is that it ever got made at all. This year's freak weather in Beaujolais threw hail, rain, floods, heavy humidity, sun and heat waves at the vines. Given this strange weather, 1992 beaujolais nouveau is, unsurprisingly, not the greatest nouveau year I have tasted. But those who vigorously thinned their grapes and picked early, before the rains, have made good wines. There was no rot. Above all, 1992 is the year of the professional specialists who have curtailed the excesses, avoided massive over-production and worked hard to give their wines concentration.

The '92 nouveau is less variable than the beaujolais men maintain. My blind tasting from high street outlets shows that this year's style is aromatic, light in alcohol and pale in colour, supple and reeking of plums and cherries. Not as tannic or exceptional as 1991, 1992's fault is a slight lack of zingy, mouthwatering



Good quality and a good price: Jane MacQuitty is impressed with the '92 vintage

nouveau acidity. Instead, it offers good, soft, uncomplicated gamay fruit that will be at its best between now and Christmas. Santé.

STARS

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, E. Loran & Fils; Unwins £2.99, Fullers £3.69

Oodles of big, ripe, concentrated, earthy plum and cherry fruit put Loran effortlessly ahead of the pack. Delicious, deep, creamy fruit and a darker crimson purple colour make this a nouveau to remember. Great value.

● 1992 Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau, Joseph Drouhin; Vintage House, 42 Old Compton Street, London, W1 £4.60. La Vigneronne, 105 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 £4.95, Stones of Belgravia, 6 Pond Street, London, SW1 £5.25

Drouhin's vibrant, elegant, juicy-fruit nouveau stood out Zesty, mouthwatering and thus atypical for 1992. Drouhin will be especially popular with true fans.

SPECIAL AWARD

● 1992 Vin de Pays d'Oc Nouveau, Georges Dubouche; Majestic Wine Warehouses £2.99

Not a beaujolais nouveau at all. But such a lively, gluggable, soft, cherry and plum packed wine, it deserves a place here. Good value.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Georges Dubouche; Sainsbury's £3.95, Augustus Barnett £3.99, Thresher & Davison's £4.49

Another heavyweight nouveau whose intense, rich musk and plum palate works well.

● 1992 St Michael Beaujolais Nouveau, Cellier des Samsons; Marks & Spencer £3.49

1991's usual pale crimson-purple colour, but enlivened by plenty of full, perfumed, lively, violet cherry and banana-like fruit.

RECOMMENDED

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Cuvée de la St Martin, Cave Coopérative Beaujolaise de Bully; Gateway £2.99

A pleasant, light, juicy, cherry-scented nouveau with no faults, but a shade dull.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Charles Chevalier; Thresher Wine Rack/Bottoms Up £3.69

Very pale crimson but agreeable, ripe, spicy, average raspberry fruit.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, H. Duranton; Oddbins £3.25

Zesty, light apple fruit. Acidic finish.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Auguste Berthiller; Sainsbury's £2.85

Enriching, fresh, zippy scent, but let down by a dull palate.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Roland Dagneau; Waitrose £3.25

Too earthy for most palates.

AVERAGE

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Guy de Servat; Asda £2.95

Zesty, but lacking fruit.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Claude Chamonard, The Victoria Wine Company £3.29

Pretty colour and plums and pears scent but bitter finish.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Pasquier-Desvignes; Augustus Barnett £2.99

Dull, farmyard-redolent.

UNACCEPTABLE

● 1992 Beaujolais Primeur, Jacques Depagneux; D. Byrne & Company, Victoria Buildings, 12 King Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire £3.55

Bentalls, Wood Street, Kingston, Surrey £3.99; Pont de la Tour, 36d Shad Thames, Butlers Wharf, London, SE1 £3.99

Wet straw, wet wood nose and over-extracted palate.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Jean-Claude Debeaux; Safeway £2.79

Disgusting sulphury, cardboard taste is surprisingly, nowhere near as nauseous as the previous year's nasties.

● 1992 Beaujolais Nouveau, Les Vignerons de la Cave de Bully; Tesco £2.75

Horrid sulphur and cardboard odour and taste.



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The other is not.



MADE IN MEDONSFLEY ROAD CONSETT

Have a nice start to the day

Hearty Thanksgiving breakfasts from
Frances Bissell, the Times cook



NOT a pumpkin, a cranberry or a turkey in the column today, although it is the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States next week. I shall use space instead as an excuse to write about American breakfasts, partly with an eye to holidays there next year with, I hope, occasions for a few lazy breakfasts.

Breakfasts did not start off as lazy meals. This year my husband, Tom, and I stayed near Brunswick in Maine, at the Harpswell Inn on Lookout Point, built in 1761 to be the cookhouse of the Lookout Point shipyard. We were woken before dawn by the clammy and lobstermen going off in their boats. They needed a Maine fisherman's breakfast much more than we did, but that is what our hosts, Susan and Bill Marx, served us a few hours later in the inn.

Along with the unlimited juice, coffee and exquisite breakfast bakes of ginger muffins, we were served what the Maine fisherman eats before he goes to sea: a helping of corned beef hash, a heap of baked beans and an egg; the kind of dish that will keep you going all day. After breakfast, I went out to buy the baked beans to bring home with me: cans of B&M Brick Oven Baked Beans, "baked for 7 hours", it says on the label. They were the only ones that would do, I was told in Brunswick. When I got back to England, I discovered that the Rosslyn Dell in London, NW3 has them, for £1.30 for a small can.

At the elegant Belmont Inn in Camden, Maine, breakfast was a different affair altogether. At the Harpswell all the 18th-century guests sat together at a long table, but here in the Belmont's conservatory, with classical music playing, we sat at small tables. Unlimited coffee was served, melon balls and mint for starters, and another beautiful breakfast cake, this time "biscuits bread", a strudel cake with sour cream under the topping. The main course was a Finnish pancake, baked in the oven. It was

light in texture but very rich, topped with sour cream, fresh blueberries and a dusting of icing sugar. At the Union Square Café in New York, we ate home-smoked trout and salmon with scrambled eggs, one of the best late breakfast dishes. At home, I like to serve it with split croissants, hollowed out brioche, or toasted bagels. Cream cheese and sliced smoked salmon is a tasty combination at any time.

One breakfast time at Colene's, on LA's Wilshire Boulevard, I ordered this, and it came in a novel form. Easy to do at home, if somewhat time-consuming and costly, it is worth doing for a special occasion. Line a loaf tin with clingfilm and then line it with slices of smoked salmon. Fill the mould with alternative layers of cream cheese and smoked salmon. Press down overnight, and then turn out and slice thinly. It will go a long way.

But first, here is my version of an American breakfast using British ingredients.

Smoked haddock hash
(serves 4)
1-1½ lb/455-680g firm, waxy potatoes
2tbsp olive oil
1 small onion or shallot, peeled and finely chopped (optional)
1lb/455g fillet of smoked haddock
1-2tbsp finely chopped parsley
4 free-range eggs

Peel and dice the potatoes very small; coarsely grate, or use the julienne blade of the food processor. Blot off excess moisture. Use a wok, sauté pan or frying pan to cook the hash. Heat the oil, and add the potatoes and onion, if using, and cook gently until the potatoes are almost cooked. Meanwhile, skin and dice the fish; add it to the pan with a little more oil and the parsley. Stir to mix well, and raise the heat slightly. Allow the fish to cook for a minute or two, and then make four depressions in the mixture, and slide a raw egg into each; put on the lid, and allow the eggs to cook in the steam and the fish to finish cooking. When the

eggs are just set, divide the mixture into four in the pan, and slide the portions on to heated plates.

An alternative method of cooking this is to spoon the almost-cooked mixture into an oven-proof dish or individual dishes, slide in a raw egg, and bake in the oven. A spoonful of soured cream over the egg yolk will prevent it hardening.

Maine fisherman's breakfast
(serves 6-8)
The hash
2lb/900g leather steak or flank steak, coarsely minced or finely diced
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped (optional)
3tbsp olive oil
1-2tbsp concentrated tomato purée or sun-dried tomato paste
dash of Worcestershire sauce
140ml water or stock
2-3lb/900g-1.35kg firm, waxy potatoes
seasoning
4 free-range eggs

Brown the meat and onion, if using, in half the olive oil. Stir in the tomato purée, the bitters and the Worcestershire sauce. Add about ¼ pt/140ml water or stock, and simmer, partially covered, until the meat is tender and well flavoured.

The meat can, of course, be cooked the day before required, since I am sure the dish evolved as a combination of leftovers. It can be flavoured with a bay leaf or two, or a sprig of thyme or oregano. Scrub and par-boil the potatoes; again, this is a task that can be done in advance. Peel when cool enough to handle, and dice very small. Fry them in the remaining olive oil, and when they are cooked and nicely browned, combine the meat and potatoes.

Poach or fry free-range eggs, and serve with the hash, or bake the eggs in a dish of hash, as described in the previous recipe.

Do not forget to serve with baked beans: the best you can buy or bake. Judge the quantity according to taste and appetite.

Fruit compote in spiced tea
(serves 6-8)
1dssop Darjeeling, Earl Grey or jasmine tea
1 cinnamon stick
1 whole nutmeg
piece of nutmeg
seeds of 6 cardamom pods
8 cloves
6 black peppercorns
6 allspice berries
1 orange, 1 lemon
1lb/455g dried fruit: apricots, pears, peaches, apples, prunes, figs, blueberries, etc.
maple syrup, honey or sugar, to taste

Make a pot of tea, using about 2pt/1.15l water, and let it infuse for five minutes. Put the spices in a saucepan. Strain the tea over them, and simmer for ten minutes. Peel the orange and lemon, and put it, with the dried fruit, in a large bowl. Squeeze the orange and lemon juice into the bowl. Pour the hot spiced tea over the fruit, spices and all, and leave overnight. Add more water or hot

tea, if necessary. Before serving, taste and sweeten if you think it needs it, but keep in mind that the fruit is already very sweet.

Dried apricot muffins
(makes 12)
¼ lb/110g plain flour
¼ lb/110g superfine wholemeal flour
3tbsp baking powder
pinch of salt
freshly grated nutmeg
3oz/85g light or dark muscovado sugar
3oz/85g melted butter
1 free-range egg, lightly beaten
8fl oz/230ml buttermilk, or a mixture of yoghurt thinned down with water or skimmed milk
¼ lb/110g chopped, dried apricots

Grease 12 bun tins or paper cases. Sift the flours together and then sift with the rest of the dry ingredients. Mix the butter and egg with the liquid, and stir into the dry ingredients. Do not over-mix. Stir in the dried fruit.

Fill the greased tins or cases

about two-thirds full. Bake in a preheated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for 20 to 25 minutes, until risen and golden brown.

This is not unlike a Finnish pancake, and is easy to make. Bake it in individual dishes or a larger oven-proof dish to serve at the table. For six people, mash six or eight ripe (not spoiled) bananas with a little sugar, and season with nutmeg or cinnamon. Beat in three or four free-range egg yolks, 1tbsp of sifted flour and ¼ pt/140ml single cream or milk. Whisk the egg whites, and fold into the banana mixture. Spoon into a generously buttered oven-proof dish, and bake until pulled up and golden brown, 12-20 minutes, depending on the depth of the dish. Serve hot. Maple syrup and thick plain yoghurt are ideal accompaniments.

© Harpswell Inn, 141 Lookout Point Road, RR1 Box 141, So. Harpswell, Maine, 04079 USA (010 1 207 833 5509), Belmont Inn, 6 Belmont Avenue, Camden, Maine, 04843 USA (010 1 207 236 8053).

Entertaining at home

Cut the small talk and start eating

Taki Theodoropoulos: As a Greek male, I'm not in the least interested in cooking. But I enjoy entertaining my friends, so when I'm in London for any length of time I'll have a dinner party, although since I turned the dining room of my Cadogan Square house into my study, this means it will be in the kitchen.

In London I use two freelance chefs who cook the kind of food I like: light and fresh. I enjoy Italian food, and salads.

I don't enjoy formality, but a certain degree of grace can be achieved by filling the drawing room with vases of flowers, preferably yellow, sunny flowers. I wouldn't serve cocktails, too complicated! Champagne is good for any occasion.

There will be some sort of starter already on the table, and then we'll have a dish like a risotto, served with mixed poppadoms and a green salad, perhaps, and ending up with a light dessert like a mousse.

In New York, where everyone eats out at restaurants all the time, it's especially nice to entertain at home. My wife Alexandra (the Austrian Princess Alexandra Schoenburg) might arrange a dinner with my friend Norman Mailer, say, or someone who is such a celebrity that he finds it hard to eat in public.

In Greece, I like to entertain on my yacht, with pastas, risottos and salads.

Another thing, I don't enjoy pre-dinner small talk. So my ideal thing is to appear just before dinner is served — fresh from the shower and hungry for conversation — without having to go through the dreary warming-up period during the drinks session.

Taki's favourite carried chicken risotto
2oz unsalted butter
2 medium onions, peeled and chopped
2-3 sticks celery, chopped
12oz long grain rice
1tbsp mild curry paste
1½ pt of chicken stock
salt, pepper
5oz frozen peas
1lb cooked chicken, skinned
3tbsp Greek yoghurt
chopped parsley
3 corniche, skinned, deseeded, chopped
3oz grated Gruyère cheese

Melt butter in large pan, add onions; fry over moderate heat till transparent; add celery, fry for two minutes, add rice and curry paste. Cook, stirring continuously, for further two to three minutes. Add chicken stock, salt and pepper and simmer for 20 minutes, until most of the liquid is absorbed. Do keep stirring intermittently to stop it sticking to the bottom of the pan. Add peas, cooked chicken, then yoghurt and chopped parsley. Just before serving add tomatoes and cheese.

Interview by Jay Billington



Alexandra and Taki Theodoropoulos in London

Proof of the pudding

Get ready for
Stir-up Sunday
with the famed
Times recipe

The coldest of tomorrow, the Sunday before Advent, includes the words "Stir up we beseech thee, O Lord, the wiles of thy faithful people that they, plentifully bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plentifully rewarded." Tradition has it that cooks would rush home from morning service, having been reminded to make the Christmas pudding, and it has long been known as Stir-up Sunday. So in time for Stir-up Sunday, here is my Christmas pudding recipe again.

The only fat comes from the egg yolks, and the only sugar from the dried fruits, the small amount of marmalade or candied peel and the fortified wine.

The pudding is high in fibre from the wholesome bread crumbs and the dried fruit. It is also absolutely delicious, full of rich flavour and moistness but not at all heavy. And because it contains prunes, it can claim to be an authentic plum pudding.

I have a second-hand, much annotated copy of the original *The Times Cookery Book*, published in 1960. Next to the Christmas pudding recipe the book's owner has noted the cost of ingredients for the 7lb pudding mixture. In 1960 the pudding cost 29s 3d (about £1.46) and in 1961, 26s 8d, or the equivalent of about 16p per pound. Perhaps it doesn't do to dwell on such things.

Frances Bissell's Christmas pudding
(serves 8-10)
8oz/230g fresh wholemeal breadcrumbs
8oz/230g roughly chopped muscovado raisins
8oz/230g roughly chopped sultanas
8oz/230g roughly chopped dried apricots
4oz/110g stoned chopped prunes
2oz/60g crumbled almond macaroons or Italian amaretti
2oz/60g chopped almonds
2oz/60g ground or flaked almonds



The genuine plum pudding: moist and not at all heavy — but possibly illegal

1 peeled and grated apple
1tbsp grated orange zest
1tbsp ground cinnamon
1tbsp ground mace
½ tsp ground cardamom
½ tsp cloves
½ tsp allspice
2tbsp orange marmalade or candied orange peel
juice of 1 small orange
4 size 3 eggs
1 miniature bottle of brandy
¼ pt/140ml fortified muscat wine, port, marsala or oloroso sherry

Put all the dry ingredients in a large bowl, and mix thoroughly, either with a large wooden spoon or your hands. Put the marmalade, orange juice, eggs, brandy and wine in another large bowl or in a blender or food processor, and beat until well blended and frothy. Pour the liquid over the dry ingredients. Mix again until the mixture is moist. Cover and let it stand for a couple of hours at least, and, if possible, overnight to let the spice flavours develop. Oil or butter the pudding basin or

basins (the mixture fills a 3pt/1.75l basin), and spoon in the mixture. As the pudding contains no raw flour, it will not expand much during cooking, and you can fill the mixture to within ½ in/1.25cm of the rim. Take a large, square greaseproof paper, oil or butter it, and tie it over the top of the pudding basin with string.

Place the basin in a saucepan, standing it on a long triple strip of foil to help you lift the hot basin out of the saucepan once cooked. Pour in boiling water to reach halfway up the pudding basin, cover the saucepan, and bring it back to the boil. Lower the heat, keep water at a steady simmer, and steam the pudding for five hours. Make sure the water is kept topped up. When the pudding is cooked, remove it from the pan and allow it to cool completely before wrapping it in fresh greaseproof paper and foil.

When you want to serve it, steam for a further two hours.

● SOME people think Christmas pudding should be illegal. Good news for them: it is. Oliver Cromwell decreed that plum puddings were "abominable idolatrous things to be avoided by Christians", and one of his statutes, never formally repealed, provided that people could be fined or imprisoned for eating or making them. Christmas pudding's origins are hazy, but it is likely to have derived from plum pottage or plum porridge, a fearful concoction of mutton broth thickened with brown bread. Raisins, currants, prunes and spices were added, and it was served in a tureen like a soup.

No British law now dictates what ingredients a Christmas pudding may contain, but a French coroner did once demand that safety standards should be imposed. He had just ruled that a family of three had succumbed to the fumes of an English Christmas pudding.

F.B.

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Are we past the coming of age?

There is no clear definition of our passage to adulthood, James Henderson writes

I could have married at 16, but I wasn't allowed to buy a can of cider in an off-licence until I hit 18. The freedom to drive off into the sunset came at 17, but real independence of mind took many years. So when do we come of age? In many cultures it is clearly defined. You are dragged off from the childhood play-area to join the men or women, and they reveal the mystic rites and secrets of the tribe to you. In a money-based society, such as ours, the closest we have to this initiation is probably the first visit to the bank manager.

Older readers may remember receiving the key to the door at 21. Perhaps paying your first union dues was your big adult moment, or being presented as a debut at Queen Charlotte's ball. Either way, coming of age is not what it was and we reach it younger and younger, due to an increasingly sophisticated adolescent generation.

The state, an overgrown equivalent of the tribe, is quite clear on the matter, though. You get your majority when you turn 18. You become a fully paid-up member of the economic system and you can have your rights, and duties, like everyone else. You can pay taxes and you can drink in the pub. They pop a voting card in the post for you. There you are: you're a man. Thanks, you think now what?

My eighteenth birthday party had none of the significance of a physically rigorous initiation ceremony. It was certainly a far cry from being an ancient Roman: my mother did not call me in, give me a sword and a shield and send me off to prove myself.

There is no clear transition to warrior and eventually to wise man for today's Briton, and there are no instructions about what to do in your newly acquired personhood (the differences in rights and responsibilities between the sexes, in the workplace for instance, have been steadily eroded). One school of thought maintains that the absence of a clearly defined separation from the mother figure is the root of many later problems in human relations. A warrior without

a clear role seems rather sterile, and could end up with a complex.

You no longer need to be physically strong to support the family and defend it; nor need you venture out and tell an antelope with your bare hands. The chequebook will do. The war ethos is still knocking around the national subconscious — the tribe may have to call on it eventually — but, generally speaking, 20th-century Brits are sedentary, and the excess of testosterone stunting in the veins must be channelled in other directions.

Modern warriors found their expression in the 1980s. What a time to come of age (I was 18 in 1980). It was a brave new world all right, and fighters (men or women) could carve a path for themselves. There was the cut and thrust of the dealing room, and expense accounts that were wielded as bludgeons. The key to the door was just as likely to be the key to the GTI.

I score therefore I am — otherwise, in testosterone terms, you're a big girl's blouse. Even the vocabulary of war has crept in, with aggressive marketing strategies and corporate raiding. But man as telephone warrior, confined to expressing his virility by being fastest off from the traffic lights? Somehow it didn't answer my questions about impending manhood.

For all the schoolboy cynicism, other societies do not necessarily have any better answers in an overcrowded world. Just imagine the burden of having to be macho all the time. Some South American protagonists know exactly where they stand when they are presented to the world at the age of 15. Officially they are ready to be mated: they are on the market and have no choice. Their brothers can look forward to being led off to the brothel by their dads.

Perhaps the loss of virginity is a form of coming of age. It certainly changes your perspective, but after the distortions of the changing room and furtive whispering, it is also an initiation into what can turn out to be a lifelong struggle — the



Proving themselves: Roman gladiators fought bloody battles, but for modern warriors there is the cut and thrust of the dealing room and expense accounts wielded as bludgeons

battle of the sexes. Again, the terminology of war creeps into sexual relations: the talk is of conquest and strategy. An erogenous zone might even be an obscure part of a battlefield.

Leaving home is a significant step on the path to fully fledged adulthood. The novel string is finally severed and the wide world looms ahead. Today it means finding somewhere to live and finding for yourself. In times past there was a brutal certainty about it: a maiden was married off to become woman and raise a family.

For surplus males there were other plans. Go West Young Man! At least while there was still

territory to conquer. There may have been compelling reasons for the dispersal — young lions are turned out of the pride when they become a threat to the dominant male — but travel is a recurrent theme of the passage to manhood. Australian Aborigines go walkabout, braving a harsh desert. And, though the Dames are a peaceable bunch nowadays, their ancestors are still famed for their 'flits' of passage. When aspiring Vikings were expected to join one seashore raid of rape and pillage.

More recently the most fortunate Brits would complete their education on the Grand Tour, a spin around European culture to make

them rounded men and women. Nowadays there's little left in the way of exploration — wherever you go you'll find a documentary crew has beaten you to it — but it still exposes you to the inequalities of the world and helps to mould the adult.

Your first job, of course, is an important moment in coming of age, as you move from the novice to the 'morally responsible adult', as the anthropologists would have it. There is no real separation and re-incorporation into the tribe, but undoubtedly it makes a person more confident to step off in a new suit and master the skills of modern hunter-warrior. Soon you can look

forward to your first mortgage. Passage to 20th-century man and womanhood has its difficulties, and is quite likely to set you on course for a ulcer.

Perhaps it would have been easier being a warrior, with a ceremony to mark the passage — a dousing in blood or a public whipping to show that the new man can suffer pain in silence — and with it a clearly defined idea of your place in society. But it is precisely the idea of being put in your place that has been broken down.

This is the century of the individual, so today people are expected to define their own passage to man-

hood or womanhood. The basic key to adulthood is surely financial independence. This means the acceptance that you are a tiny, insignificant player in the agro-industrial complex. Coming of age, though, must be more than merely a graduation to dutiful consumer.

In times past a boy may not have come of age unless he went to war, but I'm glad I was not expected to find full expression with an AK-47. Instead, life will be at the controls of the mahogany bomber (a desk, to a few jaded souls who still crave adventure). For all the limitations of the 20th century, I can only hope that the word processor really is mightier than the sword.

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Suffolk packs a punch

Robin Young finds out why an East Anglian society has become synonymous with craft excellence



Old favourites: Holly Belsher makes cast jewellery with a primitive feel to it. Her studio is now in Bristol

Suffolk has to be the craftiest county in the kingdom. If you doubt my word, take that of Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, who has written the foreword to the current directory of the Suffolk Craft Society. "This new directory", he writes, "is the best possible way of telling more people why they should pause before they waste money on an object that is poorly designed or badly made. I commend it highly to all those who have an eye or an instinct for beauty."

Lord Palumbo has already put his money where his mouth is. He commissioned his hammock, "that most soothing of objects, beautifully woven, sturdy but light", from one of the society's 150 members, Jan Hopkins of Hadleigh, who more usually weaves woollen rugs. Her other unusual commissions have included providing tapestries for a barrister's office in Ipswich.

The Arts Council chairman has also invested in a bowl from another Suffolk Craft Society member, Stephen Broadley, a wood turner from Denton who specialises in using "wet" or unseasoned wood, buying whole tree trunks so that he can select the best natural features in the wood for his pieces.

Mr Broadley has also recently made chopping boards for Hammond Innes, the author, and gavel for Phillips, the auction house.

In most counties craft, as in "craft fair" or "craft sale", is a dread word, threatening burns full of artless and tasteless tat. In Suffolk, though, the most rigorous of professional stan-



Quality collection: patchwork quilt by Philippa Bergson; chair by John Barrett; stool by David Gregson; basket by Will Berry; sweaters by Caroline Sullivan; rugs by Charmaine Keep; jacket and waistcoat by Anita Faithfull; rolled blind by Jacky Linney; scarves by Annabel Ridley

dards apply. Membership of the Suffolk Craft Society can be earned only by submitting examples of work for inspection by the existing members, so that they can judge the design and craftsmanship. "Sometimes the standard of newcomers' work makes older members buck their own ideas up," says John Brown, the society's press officer.

At this year's selection meeting there were 27 new applicants for membership, but only 16 managed

to win the two-thirds majority they required to be accepted as full members. This, society veterans said, was "a good year". In some past years the rejection rate has been far more ruthless.

As a result of this insistence upon the highest level of skills, celebrity patronage is quite commonplace for Suffolk Craft Society members: John Barrett of Yoxford made the chairs and music stands for the Aldeburgh Foundation's Snape Maltings concert hall, and fur-

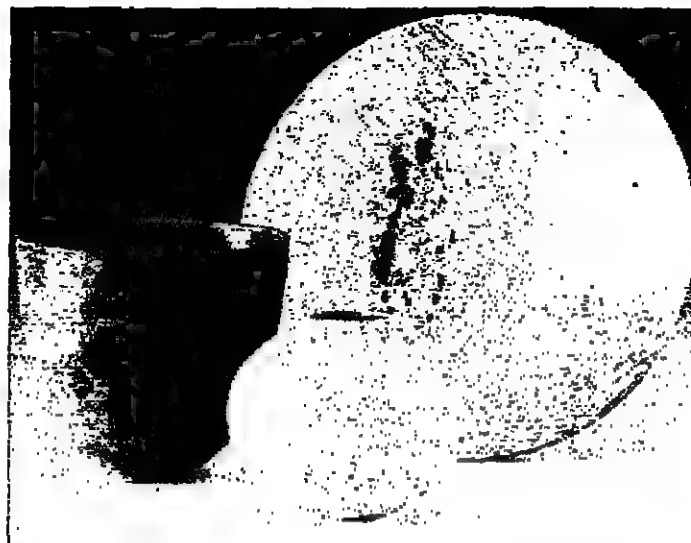
nished a "floating" staircase for the designer Michael Peter's London house; Jill Esery of Bury St Edmunds quilted and embroidered the jacket the author and life peer P.D. James wore on her American publicity tour; and Frank Muir had his visitors' book rebound by Sheila Charrington of Layer Marney Tower, and commissioned a mirror framed in mahogany and ebony from Robert Townsend of Middleton, near Saxmundham.

One of the most regular customers is the novelist Ruth Rendell, who is now, appropriately, the society's patron. She says: "No one who visits my Suffolk home or my house in London could miss the pieces that are distinctively the work of the Suffolk Craft Society."

They include a campaign chair in dazzling patchwork by Sonia Brown of Ipswich, a unique set of gold jewellery by Holly Belsher, whose studio is now in Bristol, a



Flower bowl: Michelle Ohlson specialises in decorative clocks, mirrors and bowls, richly coloured in blues, pinks and purples



Natural shine: Stephen Broadley of Denton, Norfolk, makes bowls and gift items in English timbers

garden fountain by Alice Palmer of Uggheshall, a batik wallhanging by Stanley Crosland from Halesworth, and a collection of brilliantly glazed earthenware by Michelle Ohlson, who now works in Cheltenham. An Ohlson clock, mid-night blue with applied floral decoration and golden hands, even inspired a Rendell short story.

Miss Rendell reckons to have bought about half her Christmas presents some years at the annual Christmas shop stocked with members' work. This year, though, she should have little difficulty taking the proportion even higher, for the society is taking more space than ever before.

From Monday more than 100 of the society's members, including basket-makers, calligraphers, potters, cabinet-makers, glassblowers, musical instrument makers, mosaicists and sculptors, will be exhibiting at the Bury St Edmunds art gallery, Market Cross. They will be joined by a score or so from the Norfolk Contemporary Craft Society in an exhibition called *Crafts are Fun for Christmas*.

The Suffolk Society's annual summer exhibition at the Aldeburgh Festival this year attracted 15,000 visitors and, despite the recession, managed to achieve record sales.

The Christmas exhibition will be more than twice as big, and continues until December 19, while the members' shop run in conjunction with the show will continue trading until 5pm on December 23.



Original: Alice Palmer hand-builds individual sculptures at her studio in Uggheshall, near Beccles

● *Crafts are Fun for Christmas* will take place at Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery, The Market Cross, Exhibition Nov 23-Dec 19; shop Nov 23-Dec 23, Mondays to Saturdays 10am-5pm, admission 50p, concessions 30p, children free. *Living Crafts in Suffolk*, the Suffolk Craft Society directory, is available from the society at Fairfield House South, Summardham, IP17 1AX, £4.25 including P&P. The Craft Council, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY (071-278 7700), can advise about the activities of other craft societies.

London's arty street party

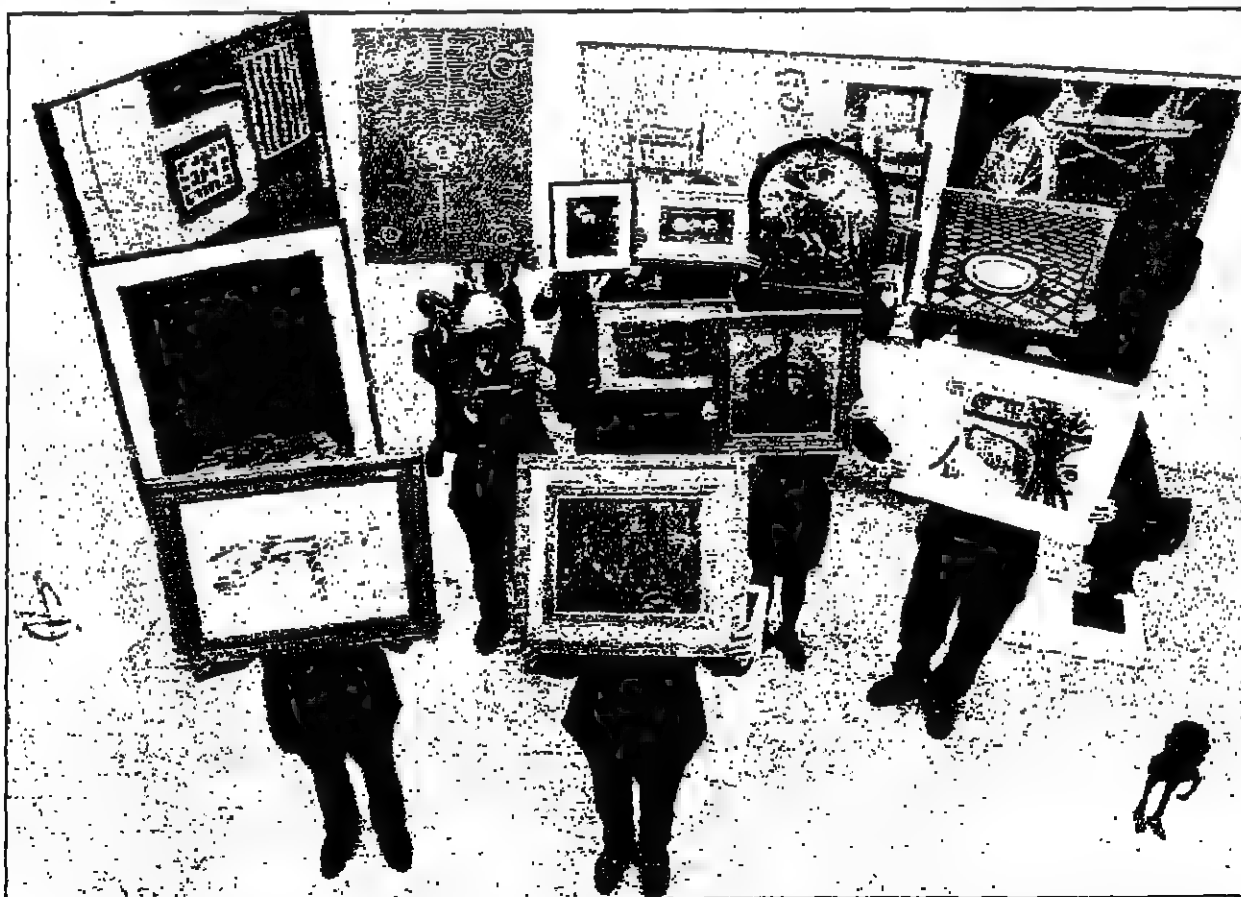
Next weekend is 'open house' in the Cork Street galleries

Ever since the 1930s, Cork Street in London W1 has been the country's mecca of contemporary art. Nowadays, in the space of 100 yards, the visitor has a choice of 16 galleries to browse through.

But British people tend to shy away from Cork Street, fearing its clinical white walls, the out-glass accents of its gallery girls and even the art. No wonder the dealers reserve their red-carpet treatment for rich clients, who have usually flown in from abroad. Next weekend, however, the dealers of Cork Street are giving us a chance to redeem ourselves. Instead of closing sharp at lunchtime on Saturday, all 16 galleries will remain open until 6pm on Sunday.

The sudden hospitality may have something to do with the current moribund market (Leslie Waddington, doyen of the street, has just announced he has written down the value of his stock by 20 per cent from £45 million to £36 million, and declared a trading loss of £2 million). The result, however, offers an unbeatable survey of contemporary art, at prices from a few hundred pounds to millions.

On the sublime end of the scale are the abstract stripe paintings by Sean Scully at Waddington. Something of a hero among contemporary artists, Scully was recently in the news decrying the collector Charles Saatchi for offloading a quantity of paintings by him. This impressive exhibition



Meeting at the modern mecca: Cork Street galleries display their wares, from the abstract to the ridiculous

shows how he triumphed over this humiliation.

The ridiculous is represented by holograms and paintings by Alexander at the Cooling Gallery, opposite. Here, collectors can acquire a limited-edition miniature hologram of Christ for their living-room (£750), or a pretentious abstract painting called *A Ritual Dance of the City and the Land* entailing drips, a feather and a pile of pebbles attached to a blank canvas (£1,000). Somewhere

in the middle comes a giant prancing hare by Barry Flanagan, one of a stable of such bronze sculptures which Mr Waddington says he has been shifting at a great rate since lowering his prices (but only to overseas buyers).

There are rabid shows of American contemporary art at the Dennis Hotz gallery, and of 20th-century British figurative art at the Mercury, Redfern and Piccadilly galleries. The Raab Gallery will offer an overview of contempo-

rary European art, including artists such as the Glaswegian Ken Currie, the German A.R. Penck and the Italian Mimmo Paladino, while the William Jackson Gallery and Richmond Gallery has a line-up of "Young Contemporaries", such as Ivor Davies and Althea Wilson.

Even when the hush descends on Cork Street again, it will never again be quite so hallowed after the arrival next Friday of Atrium Art Bookshop at number five. Run

by a trio of young women led by Shamagh Heneage, and offering art books, postcards and seating space for browsers, Atrium promises to become a centre for lively exchange, not to mention art world gossip. "People can just buy a postcard, in order to pay for their half-hour's browse," Miss Heneage says.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● Cork Street open weekend, Nov 28 10am-7pm; Nov 29 11am-6pm.

Festive treats from Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook



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The pudding contains dried apricots, prunes, walnuts and the distinctive flavour of citrus fruits, from fresh juice to fragrant oils. It weighs just under 2lb and can be reheated by boiling, steaming or microwaving. Instructions included. Price £9.95.

The un-iced 2.2lb cake contains vine fruits, almonds, hazelnuts, dates apricots, walnuts and black cherries. Butter and brown sugar provide richness. Price £14.95.

The wicker hamper measures about 19cm high, 44cm wide and 30cm deep, and contains: cake and pudding, plus a 15oz jar of mincemeat, 6oz jar of mandarin liqueur butter, and a bottle of Pedro Ximenez sweet sherry by Emilio Lustau. Price £69.95.

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Let's do the show right here

Penelope Dening
on the smell of the
greasepaint and
other joys of
amateur dramatics

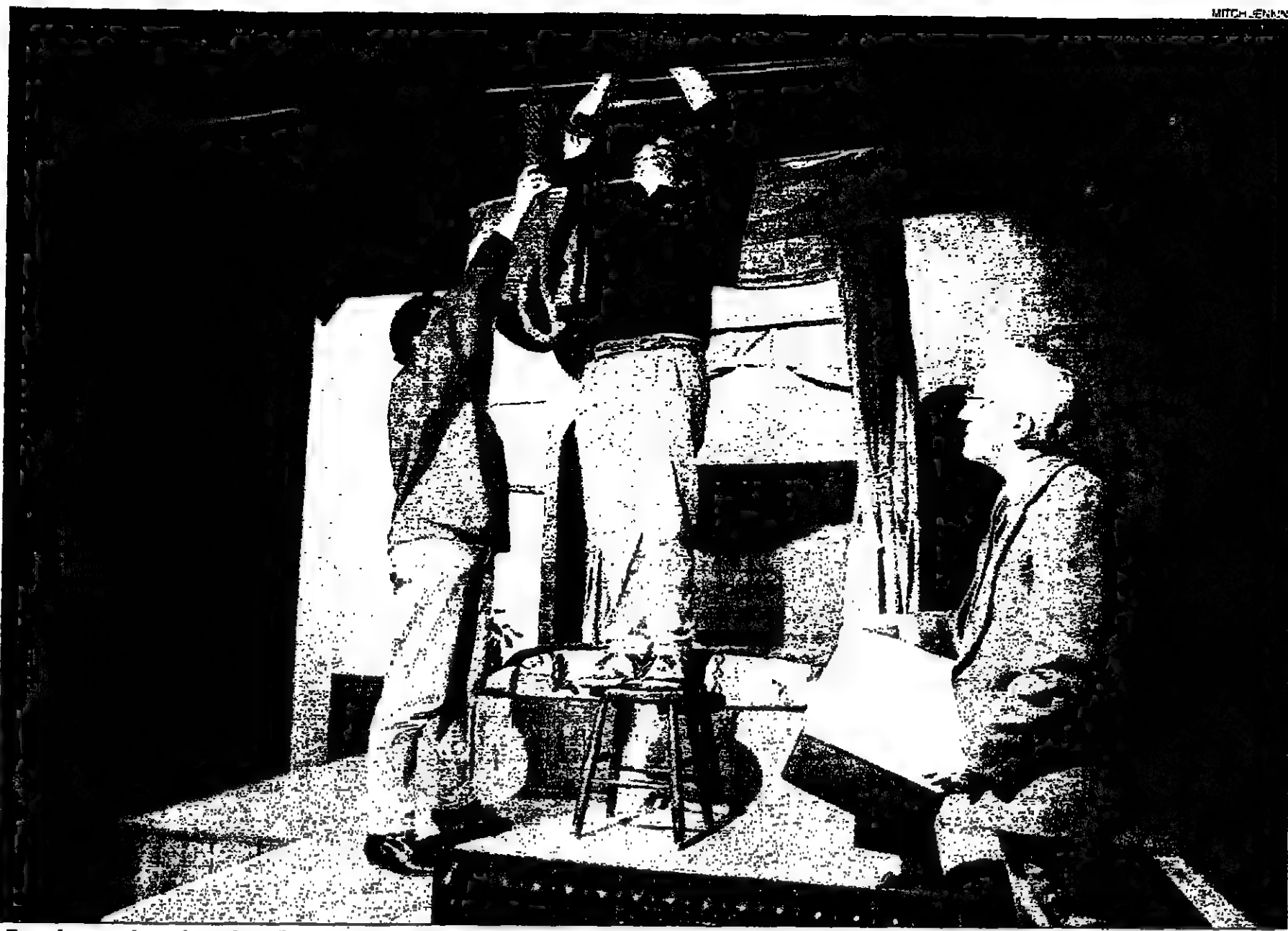
It's Wednesday night. The "half" crackles over the Tannoy, beginners on stage in 30 minutes. The actors quell first-night nerves with the ritual application of greasepaint. The wardrobe mistress hurriedly glues a hem, the prop master scours the wings for a missing candlestick, in the prompt corner the stage manager checks through her sound cues as the designer fusses with the backdrop, and the director wanders round the dressing rooms dispensing last-minute advice like Henry V before Agincourt.

A West End premiere? No. Until a few hours ago the members of this particular company were busy teaching, hairdressing, diagnosing, advising clients, pulling teeth.

There are an estimated 17,000 amateur theatre groups in Britain, ranging from the equivalent of the Ambrose players, with their once-a-year Christmas pantos, to the 65-strong Little Theatre Guild, whose standards and repertoire are as high as any in the country, but whose names barely rate a blip on theatre-going consciousness.

Gwen Taylor, one of the most talented actresses on British stage or screen, is currently starring in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds (last night tonight). Best known for what she calls her "Crimplene queen" roles, Taylor finds the public's generally disparaging view of "am dram" incomprehensible. Her involvement in theatre began with the Marlowe Players in Derby. "I never enjoyed acting as much as when I was an amateur. It was incredibly exhilarating, and there was none of that pressure of thinking how it is going to affect my career? No matter how successful you get as a professional, the pleasure is always tempered by wondering how the critics will react."

"People get involved with amateur theatre for all sorts of reasons, for companionship, to show off. When I first joined I was very shy, unhappy married, and I totally undervalued myself. Then I found myself in this wonderful warm, family atmosphere. Every production has a unique excitement. There's never a sense of just



Enough rope to hang themselves: director Jack Wood watches members of the Barn Theatre in Welwyn Garden City make final adjustments to a set for *Tom Jones*

another show. Even the audience have a proprietorial involvement: they know the cast or recognise somebody's sideboard. And there's so much scope for doing what you're good at. If you enjoy painting you could end up doing a view from a window or faking a Picasso."

In fact, actors represent just the tip of the iceberg. Membership of the larger amateur companies can run to five or six hundred but, of those, only 100 are interested in actually appearing on stage.

Unlike amateur orchestras or choral societies, there's no public funding for amateur theatre.

Money is generated through membership, ticket sales and profits from the bar. Specialised theatre skills relating to lighting, sound and acting are passed down through succeeding generations of the keen and willing; but other, less esoteric talents are the bedrock of a company's success, from money magicians skilled in the manipulation of loaves and fishes, to DIY enthusiasts of Noah-like stamina and invention. The visually creative handle sets and posters; the ebullient and gregarious staff front-of-house; hoarders and collectors manage set dressing and props.

Whatever the area of involvement, enthusiasm counts for more than experience. It's a generous world with none of the star hierarchy that can sour professional theatre. Above all, amateur theatre is fun.

Shan Fisher, marketing manager for Whiteley's, the hugely successful shopping mall in Baywater, west London, joined the Barn Theatre in Welwyn Garden City 12 years ago, "probably because I had just moved here and saw it as a way of meeting like-minded people."

Shan says having such a pressurised job can be a problem. "I can be still in a meeting at 6.30pm in London knowing that my rehearsal in Hertfordshire starts at 8pm. Sometimes I feel I'm trying to juggle 25 balls in the air at a time, but it's always worth it."

Rehearsal periods differ but usually last around two months. They fill two or three evenings a week plus Sunday afternoons, until the week before the show opens, when the pressure boils up.

The Barn is fairly typical of high-profile amateur theatres. Its programme of nine plays each season (which runs from September to May) is selected from members' suggestions, the committee's aim being remarkably similar to a commercial management's, that is to achieve a balance between popular plays and more stimulating work, the familiar and the unknown.

As the recession continues to bite, casts in the professional theatre get smaller and smaller. There are no such constraints in the amateur world, and with only the RSC and the National Theatre companies now able to enjoy the luxury of experiment or large-scale revival, "am dram" is poised to break through the credibility gap.

Martin South, a 30-year-old solicitor, joined the Tower Theatre in Islington, north London, eight years ago. "The great plus of being an amateur is that you can explore every area of theatre. I've designed sets, directed, and even chaired the management committee." For the Tower's recent production of *Nicholas Nickleby*, as well as playing the lead, he designed the poster. In this year's panto he'll be playing bass guitar.

Standards clearly differ, but Mr South believes you should always start locally. "People tend to gravitate to their own level and in a small company, if you're good, you'll soon be taking on more responsibility and gaining invaluable experience."

After a couple of years with the fairly traditional Marlowe players, Gwen Taylor moved on to an avant-garde theatre-in-the-round, whose repertoire was more Pirandello and Brecht than Ayckbourn and Coward. "Whether you're acting or making costumes, you've got to feel comfortable," she says. "You



Backstage enthusiasts: Shirley and David Shaw tackle lighting and sound for the new production

might be more at home with musicals. It's just like finding a doctor or physiotherapist, you've got to shop around, to find a company that's right for you."

The word amateur is burdened these days with connotations of the half-hearted and half-baked. To some degree amateur theatre relishes this "pink string and sealing wax" view, where family heirlooms are appropriated as props, scenery falls over and an unclaimed tea trolley may be cannibalised as a coffin for the next show. But beneath the Heath Robinson anecdote lies an evangelical faith in the value of live theatre, with training by professionals and a commitment to new writing central to the ethos.

And for those who do long for the limelight, it's not the dead end it might at first appear. Actors who started this way include Michael Williams, Jonathan Pryce, Michael Gambon, Bob Hoskins, Donald Sinden, Tom Courtenay, Ian McKellen and Kenneth Branagh.

For a year or so after leaving university, Ms Fisher acted professionally, but she would never go back. "Professional auditions are a

cattle market, a hideous experience, but in amateur theatre you're encouraged, you're helped. And if you don't get a part it doesn't matter. You don't stop eating, you can still pay the mortgage."

Above all, there's the opportunity of great parts. A couple of years ago Ms Fisher played Maggie in Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. And she is about to audition for Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. As she says: "You can spend your life in the professional theatre and never get to do that."

First nighters: Alan Southgate is made up as Tom Jones, while Bridget Allworthy tries to stay calm

Information on amateur theatre



The regional outfits below will provide details to interested parties of groups in their area and are prepared to chat and be helpful. The Little Theatre Guild covers the whole country and its members are — or consider themselves — the premier league of amateur theatre.

□ Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain
Marjorie Havard,
19 Abbey Park Road,
Great Grimsby,
DN32 0HU (0472 343424).

□ Scottish Community Drama Association
Maggie Gordon,
5 York Place,
Edinburgh EH1 3EB
(031-557 5552).



□ Association of Ulster Drama Festivals
Beth Duffin,
284 Cragagh Road,
Belfast (0960 340984).

□ All English Theatre Festival
Daphne Squire,
11 Hambro Gardens,
Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 2NR (0702 75676).

□ Drama Association of Wales
The Library,
Singleton Road,
Splott, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan
CF2 3ET (0222 452200).

□ Specialist magazine:
Amateur Stage,
83 George Street,
London W1H 9PI
(071-486 1732).

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

MAEVE BINCHY

Writer

Where would you go?

To Dalkey in co. Dublin, the small town by the sea where I grew up. I once thought it was the most boring spot on earth, but now I am a mature person I realise that it is a great place.

How would you get there?

By plane to Dublin and then by taxi to Dalkey.

Where would you stay?

In the lovely little house we bought 12 years ago. It is 101 years old and full of sunlight.

Who would be your perfect companion?

Gordon Snell, writer, friend and husband.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?

In theory I am meant to have everything there, but I keep taking the same three jackets and the same comfortable shoes back and forth.

What medicines would accompany you?

I am always so optimistic. I pack sun-tan cream and mosquito repellent wherever I go.

What would you have to eat?

I would stop at a fish shop on the way home from the airport and stock up, or go to one of the 12 gourmet restaurants around Dalkey. When I was a child there was one chip shop!

What would you have to drink?

A lot of very cold Australian white wine.

Which books would you take to read?

Anything I hadn't read by Elmore Leonard, John Grisham, Fay Weldon or William Trevor.

What music would you listen to?

Carmina Burana by Carl Orff and the Uilleann pipes played by Liam O'Flynn.

What would you watch on television?

Old gangster movies, starring Edward G. Robinson or Humphrey Bogart.

What luxury would you take?

A big drum of expensive talcum powder with a powder puff in it, so that you put it on rather than shake it off.

What piece of art would you like to have there?

A bronze sculpture by John Behan.

What souvenir would you bring home?

Irish cheese, which is now terrific, and packets of soda bread mix which I buy at Dublin airport.



Who would be your least welcome guest?

Anyone from the Met Office. I gave up listening to the weather forecast six years ago as a terrible waste of time.

What newspapers or journals would you read?

The Irish Times, the best paper in the Western world.

What three things would you leave behind?

The map of the Underground; an unwelcome gift of a book on long-range weather forecasting, which someone gave me in order to change my views; and agitated correspondence about deadlines.

What three things would you miss like to do?

Meet family and friends for an evening of catching up. Go on a lovely, sunny picnic in the Wicklow Mountains and look down on both sea and lakes. Play bad, noisy, talkative, good-natured bridge with like-minded friends.

To whom would you send a postcard?

To Sidney Woodward in Watford who will shortly be 92, to my old teacher Mother St Dominic in Hastings, the best teacher in the world, and to my cousin-in-law, Betty Snell, in Caterham.

What would you like to find when you got home?

Contented mail from my publisher and welcome back messages on the answering machine from friends in London.

Interview by
Rosanna Greenstreet

● Maeve Binchy is a columnist for *The Irish Times*. Her latest book, *The Copper Beech*, is published by Orion Books, £14.99.



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WHAT TO WEAR



Taming the style of the wild ones

Thursday, midnight: two motorbikes, a Norton Dominator 99 and a Triumph Bonneville, cruise across London towards Covent Garden's Tongue Kung Fu club. Tara and Kate slip off the pillion seats and the riders park up the machines, manoeuvring them into a line of other bikes, and remove their lids. Pausing twice to admire particularly rare specimens, they all join a queue of other club-goers. Everyone is dressed in combinations of black leather and denim.

These are not serious "bikers", but all like to imagine they have just a drop of Hell's Angels blood flowing through their veins. Jumping into leathers at the end of a long day at work is a way of expressing their "wild" side. For some, bikes symbolise romance and rebellion, however stylised. They evoke film role models such as Jack Nicholson aboard a Harley Davidson in *Easy Rider*, Marlon Brando as a moody motorcycle gang leader in *The Wild One*, and Marianne Faithfull zipped into her all-in-one designer leathers in *Girl on a Motorcycle*.

Our "gang" met earlier at the Black Bull in Fulham, grabbed a burger in Ed's Diner, and is now heading for clubs where leather is as de rigueur as a dark suit in Annabel's. "The excitement is not just the bikes, but the whole dressing up thing," says Ben, a solicitor, whose general manner suggests that he would be just as happy having dinner with clients at Kensington Place. These people are not authentic bikers of the moustaches, oil-stained hands and a tin of tobacco in the back pocket variety; these are the Biker Chic, and the way they look is at least as important as the bike they ride. In short, the image counts.

"I like the look, but it is also practical from a safety point of view," says Mark, an artist. "My leathers will stop me cutting myself to ribbons if I come off. It's the same with my gloves, I'd freeze if I didn't wear them."

Next stop is Quiet Storm in Ormond Yard, where it appears that everyone is that bit more smartly dressed; high heels (the mark of style over safety) are more in evidence here, and the music is more Right Said Fred than REM. Tara works in advertising and is passionate about her boyfriend's Triumph. "Japanese bikes are more reliable, but for me it has to be a British bike," she says. "They seem more

Biker Chic has more to do with gear than gears, says Victoria Pyman: think leather, buy a bandana and listen to 'Leader of the Pack'

authentic. Harleys are beautiful, but they've become a fashion statement, bought by investment bankers to put in the garage next to the Porsche."

The high point of Tara's week is Friday night. Then she and her fellow bikers congregate on Battersea Bridge by the entrance to the park and "just hang out, it's kinda wild and great to be with people from all walks of life with one common bond. Some of the bikes there are killers, one guy comes on

a different bike every week."

Tara is not just an enthusiast, she is a fanatic, who bought her first pair of leather jeans when she was 15.

Variations on the biker's uniform are subtle. The colour of the bandana or the name on the back of the jacket appear to be the extent of the diversity. Shirts are either checked or denim, with leather or denim waistcoats, and as many layers of black T-shirts as can be squeezed on underneath (for winter warmth). Silver and

copper bracelets abound, rings are unisex and important, and leather thongs wound around the wrist seem essential.

It is twenty to three. Kane and Mark are heading down to the bagel bar in Brick Lane. "We always wind up there. The bagels are so great and it's a nice ride down there at this time of night." Ben and Tara think they'll stay for a while and maybe look in at The Ministry of Sound in Elephant and Castle on their way back. I am going home to my bed, and then to American Classics first thing in the morning.

Ministry of Sound, 103 Gault Street, London SE1 6DP (071-373 0528); Quiet Storm, 6 Ormond Yard, Duke of York's Street, London SW1 Y6JT (071-930 2842); Tongue Kung Fu, 6-7 The Piazza, London WC2E 8HA (071-336 4052).



De rigueur for the biker

■ Learn the language: standard comments on different makes will get you through most conversations (bikers err on the side of tactiturnity). "A British bike? In bits in your bath, is it?" "Italian mechanics — great; shame about the electric."

■ For true enthusiasts, a Schott Perfecto leather jacket, as modelled by the young (and then relatively svelte) Brando, is much coveted, but almost anywhere on the King's Road will sort you out a passable imitation.

■ Boot up: black lace-up DMs, square-toed biking boots and knee-highs are all acceptable. Cowboy boots are also cool and can be decorated with studs and chains.

■ Get in the mood: Listen to the Shangri-Las' "Leader of the Pack", watch *The Wild One*, and see if you can improve on the Arlo Guthrie song rhyme: "I don't want a pickle/Just want to ride on my motorcycle" and "I don't want to die/Just want to ride on my motorcycle".

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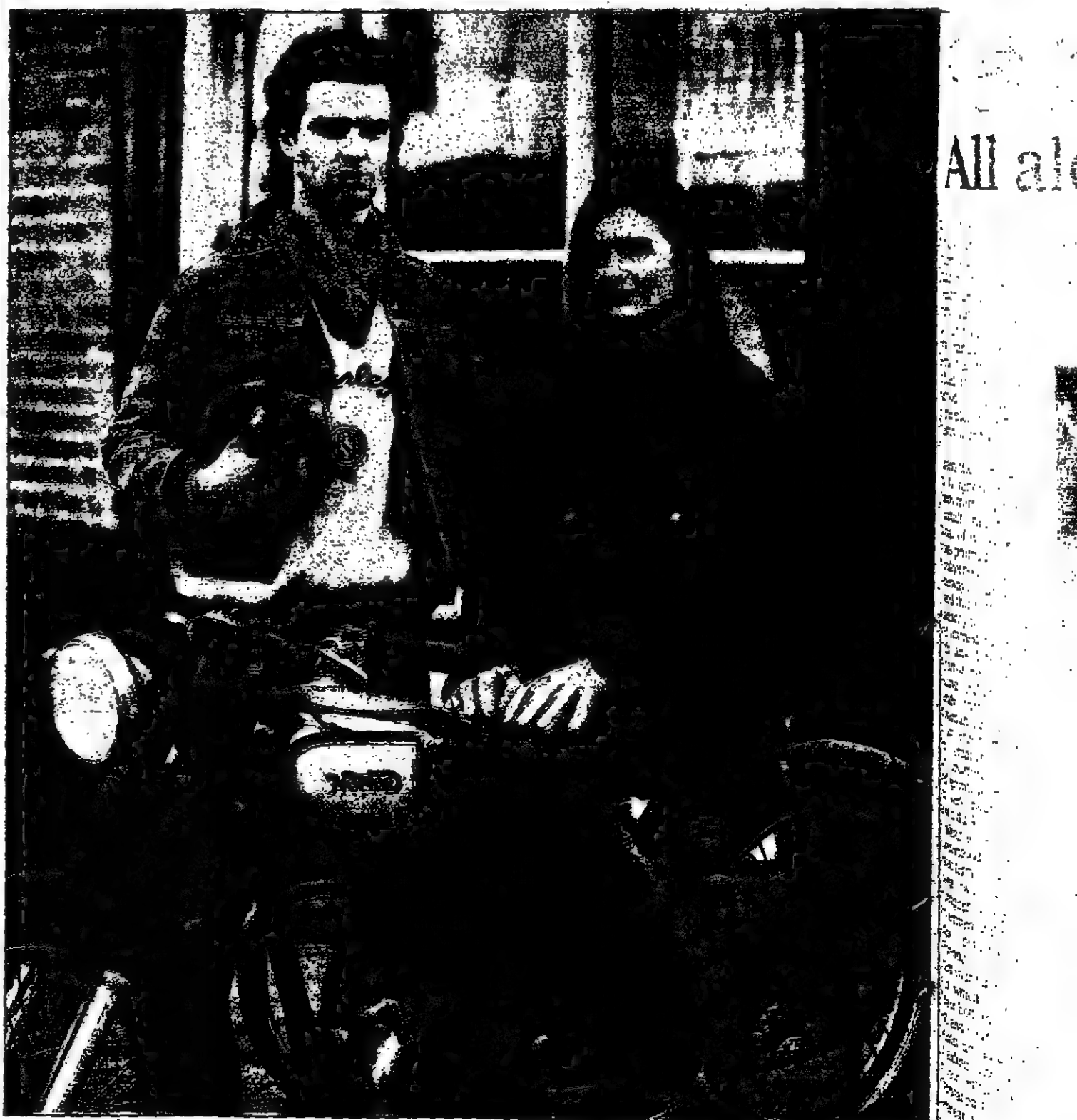
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ABOVE LEFT

Left, Nicky wears black leather Schott Chicago police jacket, £475; black bandana, £2.50; black jeans, £29; all from American Classics, 398/400/404 King's Road, London SW10. Black DMs, £49.95, from The Natural Shoe Store, 21 Neal Street, London WC2 (071-602 2866 for mail order). Centre, Simon wears leather Brooks biker jacket, £210, from Interstate, 17 Endell St, WC2; black leather jeans, £129, and bandana, £2.50, from American Classics, Polo neck, £24, Thomas Pink, 35 Dover Street, W1. Right, Alastair wears black leather Avirex jacket, £370, and jeans, £129; all American Classics. Boots, £79.95, Natural Shoe Store (as before).

TOP

Left, Jo wears black leather lace-up jeans, £60 from the Petticoat Lane Sunday market, London E1. Denim jacket, £40, American Classics, Black cowboy boots, £120, R. Soles, 109A King's Road, SW3. Simon (on bike) wears blue Levi's, £29; black T-shirt, £42.50; check shirt, from £37.50; sleeveless denim jacket, £40; all American Classics. Alastair wears black leather Avirex jacket, £370, American Classics. White Hardcore T-shirt, £15 (mail order, 081-965 6660). Right, Nicky wears check shirt, £37.50; black leather waistcoat, £59, and jeans, £129; all American Classics. Boots, £79.95, Natural Shoe Store (as before).

ABOVE

Left, Simon wears grey Harley Davidson sweatshirt, £42.50; black leather waistcoat, £59; denim jacket, £40; black bandana, £2.50, all from American Classics. Jo wears leather trousers as before; black denim Hardcore jacket, £70, and red Hardcore T-shirt, £15 (mail order from 081-965 6660). Ogri badges from £3.50 (071-831 8305). Red check shirt, £37.50, American Classics. Black cowboy boots, £120, from R. Soles, 109A King's Road, SW3.

Styling by Victoria Pyman
Hair and make-up by Mario Yarmey
Photographs by John Hudson



WEEKEND BREAK



Heavy breathing in the beams

Jeremy Laurance ponders the wonders of the industrial revolution from the comfort of his whirlpool bath



Climbing the spiral staircase to our attic room, the solid oak treads gleaming in the afternoon light, the receptionist temporarily lost her bearings among the nooks and beams and had to return to ground level for further directions. Once located, we found ourselves in an irregular room the size of a small ocean liner.

The labyrinthine Madeley Court has seen various incarnations in its 700-year history, as a monastery, country house, iron smelting business, and ruin. Its most illustrious occupant was Abraham Darby I, father of the industrial revolution, whose discovery that iron ore could be smelted with coke ushered in the modern world.

It is hard to know what he, a Quaker, would have made of the whirlpool baths now offered in the hotel's smarter rooms. Had he lain there, being shaken and pummelled like a rush-hour passenger in a submerged tube train, it seems possible he would have switched off his blast furnace and cancelled the industrial revolution.

Next morning we woke to the sound of heavy breathing. Our large room, bisected by oak beams and furnished with antiques, was in the eaves and the door was locked. Checking the enormous bed for (unexpected) signs of life, I tiptoed to a window and peered out. A hot-air balloon was gathering itself for flight on the field beyond the walled garden.

After Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, Madeley Court became a country house, passing through several owners until it was abandoned over a century ago. The 13th-century great hall, now a splendid dining-room with huge open fire and frieze depicting the death of Acaeson, was once a blacksmith's forge and later a hay barn. English National Heritage pumped in money to make the building weather-proof, but it fought a losing battle until a local builder-cum-restaurantier fell in love with it.

Martin Ebels bought the building in 1984 and is reputed to have spent more than £1 million restoring it. A local



Dinner coming up, eventually: room service keeps the staff fit at the Madeley Court

firm was commissioned to reproduce the natural mineral paints used a century ago and the fabrics, antique furnishings and fittings reflect the same attention to detail.

The result is a sumptuous country house, whose dark tones and hushed voices put one in mind of its monastic beginnings. The house is set in a quiet valley by a wood of sweet chestnut and oak with, at the back, a fine terrace overlooking a small lake.

The shallot and tarragon sauce that came with my guinea fowl wrapped in pastry was tangy and delicious. My companion's tourmets of beef fillet was served with an unusual gratin of apple and apricot, and accompanied by a heap of raw garlic which defeated her.

Starters were overly fussy but the cheeseboard had unusual offerings. A St Emillion at £15.50 was good value, but a Pouilly Fumé at £18.95 was disappointing. Dinner for two in the main restaurant is about

£60, including wine. In the brasserie, the cost would be about half as much.

After breakfast next morning we set out, as Abraham Darby would have done, for Ironbridge gorge.

Long after the coal mines are closed and the industrial revolution has sputtered to an end in a valley of chants and oaths, the gorge will be there to remind us how hard labour made the modern world. Once a medieval version of silicon valley, the heart of pre-industrial Britain, it is now a low-key British theme park which celebrates the age of iron.

Here the first iron wheel was made, the first iron rails and, most famously, the first iron bridge, which still draws visitors from around the world more than two centuries after it was built.

With a passport costing £7.50, obtainable from the hotel, you can visit the six museums and three historic sites located within the six-mile gorge, although you should allow two days to do so.

On display in the Museum of the River there is a remarkable model of the gorge, showing the mine workings and iron foundries along the banks of the Severn, then an 18th-century thoroughfare. And at Blis open air museum, you can exchange your modern devalued currency for pennies and farthings and shop for strange medicaments in the 18th-century chemist, watch iron chasers being cast, or suck ancient boiled sweets of dubious provenance. It is entertaining without being glorified or Disneyified.

My only cavil with the museums is that they focus on the products of labour and not enough on the lives of the labourers. When, after a long day at the blast furnace, Abraham Darby returned to Madeley Court, did he dream of whirlpool baths?

■ Madeley Court Hotel, Telford, Shropshire (0952 680068). A one-night weekend break including dinner, bed and breakfast, costs £55 a person sharing a double twin room. A two-night break is £98. Prices are due to rise about 10 per cent next April.



SPORTING LIFE



All along the backwater...

Sculling is the art of propelling yourself swiftly through water using two fixed paddles instead of one. If you weigh around 8lb, you'll find it a pretty tough job. But your own tiny orange webbed feet, it is the most aesthetically pleasing, indeed the most effortless, method of aquatic travel. For people, however, sculling requires slightly superior skills.

For first-timers these include the stoicism to ignore badly bruised thumbs from clashing bars, an inbuilt radar for submerged bits of wood with enormous nails protruding (an apparently indigenous feature of our waterways), and in addition — and this is the easy part — the capacity to enjoy an intimate and immediate relationship with any length of river in any part of the country.

The low-slung sculler in his or her sleekly thin-skinned craft is the human eel-king of the water, an ergonomically bear-perfect creature who glides past snorting motor cruisers and grunting rowing lights with, very nearly, the confidence of a duck.

Single sculling is, in fact, a much misunderstood sport. In the most basic terms, it means pushing using two oars attached to outriggers — the bars — properly termed sculls — in a rudderless, pencil-shaped boat-built-for-one.

You present your back to the direction in which you are heading. Your bottom is on a sliding seat, and your feet are braced against an adjustable bar. The sliding seat vastly improves your efficiency in reversing the boat past the point at which your oar slices into the water. To steer or turn, you pivot one oar over the other. To stop — well, I haven't quite mastered that bit.

Lacking a duck's natural waterborne advantages, Jodie Tressider takes up the sculls and gets busy in the river



Messing about: Dr Tom Davies guiding Jodie Tressider

there are no upper age boundaries, and the sport requires no heroic level of fitness from beginners.

It also officially admits you to the highly congenial competitive world of both the summer regatta (from Henley down to the pub-side marquee and barbecue knees-up) and winter league racing events, which may be taken as seriously, or otherwise, as you wish.

As my veteran class sculling mentor, Dr Tom Davies, a lecturer in community medicine and Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, puts it gleefully: "At our Boxing Day event the cheating is absolutely scandalous."

Perhaps the most useful tip

for beginners is: first throw your book on sculling techniques overboard. Like ski manuals for novices on the slope, written descriptions of the sculling method ("the body is rocked over and against the thighs, the knees are bent with the shins not beyond the vertical...") do not illuminate. A second piece of advice is not to be humiliated when offered the use of a "playboat" — a cleverly designed, sturdier and broader-bottomed version of the hip-hugging, streamlined, highly unstable racing scull boat.

One false move in the latter and even the moderately experienced sculler ends up in the

drink. But the playboat allows you to commit all sorts of sculling solecisms — whacking ducks across the bill, drifting across the path of barges — without risking much more than a wobble and a blush.

I met Dr Davies, who is 54 and has been sculling since his Cambridge undergraduate days, the wrong side of 9am on a gilded, pin-bright Sunday on the river Cam. He had previously described himself as "a standard British middle-aged man, not fat, not bald". He might also have mentioned that he would be wearing a raspberry and lime-green all-in-one sculling outfit. Like skiers and cyclists, scullers do have their fashion peccadilloes.

Dr Davies has his own single-sculling boat — a Clyn Locke, which cost him £1,450 seven years ago and would be about double that now — and sculls every weekend. He belongs to and mainly competes in veteran races with the Cambridge Rob Roy club. "My wife thinks I work off my aggression through sculling, but I like to think it's because I love the water and that I'm perhaps vain enough not to want a pot belly."

Scullers, he says, are not necessarily solitary people. "Whole groups come together to train and race unofficially, and you're never by yourself on a university river. In fact the Cam isn't at all ideal from a sculling point of view. It's narrow, twisty and crowded. The Thames is much better."

Beginners are never left on their own. Perhaps because scullers are evangelistic about their sport, enthusiastic newcomers are warmly welcomed and can rely on being helped into their craft — a teetering job the first time, but not much harder than finding your balance in a dinghy — and given basic instruction by experienced club members.

You are unlikely to scull continuously for more than a few minutes on your first outing. But when you do, when you succeed in getting the rowing and the sliding motion synchronised, when you slip almost soundlessly past frozen bulrushes set on fire by the early sun, and manage not to catch your thumbs between the oars, well, it's an effort not to stick out your tongue at a duck

Sculling fact box

■ How to get started: contact the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA), which governs rowing in Britain, at The Priory, 6 Lower Mall, London W8 9DJ for details of clubs with sculling facilities in your area. There are about 250 open clubs in this country. The more details you include about your age, level of interest etc., the more the ARA can help.

■ What to wear: layered, close-fitting clothes in winter, and trainers. Style point: shell suits are frowned upon.

■ What it costs: annual membership fees range from £50 to £150 — much cheaper than golf club membership. Few clubs have waiting lists. There are extra fees for entry to regattas and races.

■ When to scull: regattas are held Easter to September, winter league events from September to Easter.

■ Insurance: racing licence, valid for a year, is available from the ARA for £31.50 and offers full personal cover (£10 for under-18s). A one-day licence with full cover costs £8.

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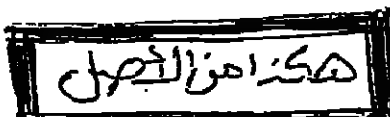
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Home within a home: Timothy and Jane Clifford in the drawing room of Tynningham House; they bought the west wing three years ago

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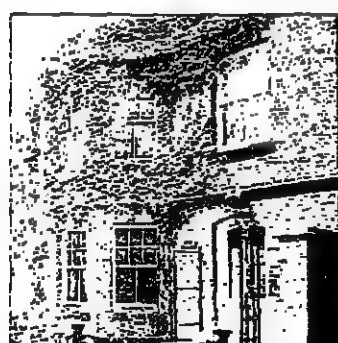
Caroline Morse finds a thatched cottage, a London dovecot, an island home with boathouse, and a Georgian music room



Edinburgh: Marchfield House, Blackwall. A listed Georgian residence with two-thirds of an acre in a cul-de-sac. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower and utility room, three reception rooms, music room. About £300,000. Contact Bird Semple Fyfe Ireland (031-343 2500).



Hampshire: Hunters Cottage, Houghton, nr Stockbridge. Restored Grade II listed thatched cottage with one acre. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower/cloakroom, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room. About £275,000. Contact General Accident (0794 523242).



London: Cumberland Lodge, Cumberland Crescent, W14. Detached cottage in cul-de-sac with walled garden and dovecot, and off-street parking. Three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, cloakroom and kitchen/breakfast room. About £265,000. Contact Knight Frank & Rutley (071-938 4311).



Isles of Scilly: Tolman House, St Mary's. Detached property with self-contained one-bedroom annexe and boathouse overlooking the bay. Half an acre. Main house has two bedrooms and two reception rooms. Conservatory leading to greenhouse. About £250,000. Stratton Creber is handling the sale on behalf of the Duchy of Cornwall (0872 74646).

Gopell Hall, a Palladian mansion in Leicestershire, was demolished in 1951, one of about 600 stately homes which have returned to dust since the second world war. As more and more families find they cannot afford the style to which their ancestors were accustomed, many other houses, such as Mavisbank in Midlothian, or Distington Hall in Cumberland, have been left to decay.

A lucky few are rescued, and live on as hotels (such as Bare Wood in Berkshire) or as conference centres (Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire). Others, such as Wardour Castle in Wiltshire, become schools — from 1960 to 1989 it was home to Cranborne Chase girls' school.

While conservation groups welcome the survival of these houses, they lament the fact that they are no longer used for their original purpose — as homes. Since the 1980s, however, an imaginative new approach has meant stately homes are becoming family homes once again. Now it is possible to live in a castle — as long as you do not mind sharing it with six other families.

Wardour Castle, for example, is to be a school no longer. It has just been sold for £1 million, virtually a third of its original asking price, to Nigel Tuersley, who plans to live and work on two floors of the central section, and to sell the rest as flats and houses.

Mr Tuersley, the managing director of an investment banking company who has no family, said he felt "very privileged. It's an amazing place. I bought it because I love the place and have no intention of re-selling it." He feels confident he will have little difficulty dividing up the house. "We won't be doing anything structural — really it will consist of knocking

There has never been a better time to turn a castle or stately pile into your home.

Edward Marriott reports

down partitions put up by the school. There is also a lift that we will leave, which will serve the flats on the second and third floors.

Prices will range from £400,000 for the seven-bedroom east wing, to £100,000 for two-bedroom flats on the second and third floors of the central section. A corner of your very own castle for the same price as a two-bedroom flat in Notting Hill.

With the market for conference centres approaching saturation, conversion is becoming more common. Certainly there is no shortage of country houses for this treatment. With the continuing recession, few families can afford to keep them on alone. Hevingingham Hall in Suffolk, at £4.5 million, has been on the market since July. Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex is for sale at £5 million.

English Heritage would prefer houses not to be split into flats, but is resigned to the fact that conversion may be a house's only chance of survival. Michael Pearce, English Heritage's chief planner, says: "Ideally, we would like the houses to remain in single ownership and occupancy. This was how they were designed and how they function best. After all, the reason why some Saxon churches survive is that they have been kept in their original state."

"If houses have to be converted, the best method is vertically, not horizontally. Each occupier then has the full range of rooms, from the kitchen in the basement to the servants' quarters at the top of the house. We also prefer it if the garden is kept in communal use;

that way it stays as true to the original as possible."

Although the vertical approach is not that favoured by Mr Tuersley for Wardour Castle, it is common elsewhere. Tynningham House near Dunbar is a red sandstone castle dating from the 17th century. The Earl of Haddington sold the house in 1988, when it was split into ten units, nine of which have now been sold.

Tim Clifford, the director of the National Gallery of Scotland, and his wife Jane live in the west wing, which cost them about £300,000 three years ago. The Clifford's house includes Tynningham's main drawing room. At 65ft long, it was the main reason they were attracted to the house. Mrs Clifford remembers visiting Tynningham "years ago, long before we considered buying it, and I remember the sun pouring in through the windows and thinking it was the nearest to heaven I had seen. We realised we wouldn't have got this style of drawing-room in a smaller house."

There are, however, strict controls on what the Tynningham residents are allowed to do. It is forbidden to have more than two dogs and no one is allowed to hang their washing outside. Mrs Clifford feels these rules are necessary. "It's a very elegant house — can you imagine what it would be like with our washing all over the place?"

There are disadvantages — it is impossible to drive within 200 yards of the Clifford's front door

and moving, therefore, "was a complete nightmare" — but Mrs Clifford "loves" the house.

"It's a great way of getting a wonderful house without having the worries normally associated with huge houses," she says.

Michael Parkin, a London art dealer, has a similar-sized slice of Guntun Park, an 18th-century mansion near the north Norfolk coast. He owns the eight-bedroom south wing, which he bought nine years ago, before building work was completed, for about £100,000. He lists the benefits: "For what I paid for Guntun we could have got a serious Norfolk rectory. But Guntun is a historic house with a fantastic parkland and conservation area. And our part has a dining-room which is 30ft high and 30ft long. You'd never get that in your rectory."

The brains behind the conversion of Guntun Park is Kit Martin, the architect. English Heritage recommends Mr Martin's "sympathetic" conversions. He operates as both architect and developer, buying a house, converting it and selling it on. The conversion of Guntun Park into 25 sections was finished in 1984. All sections have since been sold. Two, however, are back on the market through Strutt & Parker, Norwich Office (0603 617431): £225,000 is asked for the kitchen, now a three-bedroom house, and Mr Martin has just put his own Guntun house on the market for £575,000.

Mr Martin believes the conversion of stately homes into flats and houses is "about the only sector of the housing market that has any life in it. There are a lot of people who would like to live in a castle but do not want a whole castle, hundreds of staff, or hundreds of rooms. This is a cheap way to have a bit of your own castle."

In fields of lavender

Situated in the foothills of the Lower Alps, on the northeastern edge of Provence and near the medieval town of Nyons, the olive oil capital of France, this restored village house (right) is for sale at FF£300,000 (about £30,100). Close to several winter ski resorts, it is also 90 minutes' drive from the international airport of Marseilles and the Mediterranean coast.

The stone-built house is larger than average and in a good state of repair, with mains water, electric storage heating and masses of character, says Nigel Paige, of the agents Authentic France.

It has a living room, with open stone fireplace, kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms and a modernised bathroom; plus vaulted cellars, a small garden and an adjoining ruin.

The lavender-filled *département* of the Drôme, on the other side of the river Rhône from the Ardèche, remains undiscovered by British holiday-makers and househunters, and property prices are low.

It has a warm, dry, Mediterranean



Buyer's France

THE DROME

climate, and is easily reached by the A7 motorway to Montpellier, or by plane to Marseilles, Montpellier or Lyons.

The area around Nyons is characterised by its terraced hills, vineyards and lavender fields, and by its fortified villages perched on rocky escarpments.

Old, sun-bleached stone houses in the small hilltop towns and villages, set among the olive groves surrounding Nyons, can be picked up for a fraction of the price of those in more established parts of Provence.

Most of the properties have mains water, drainage and electricity, but usually lack any type of



Character: a restored village house at FF£300,000

garden. For FF£150,000 you can buy a small, restored village house, with one bedroom, kitchen and bath, with exposed stone walls, open fireplace, garage and wine cellar. Larger town houses, ready to move into, with two or three bedrooms, balconies or sun terraces, cost from FF£250,000.

Unrestored Provencal farmhouses with five or six rooms, and outbuildings suitable for conversion to *gîtes*, start at FF£350,000. But expect to pay at least FF£600,000 for a habitable home, with an acre or two of vines or arable land.

For lovers of beautiful, remote places, a restored five-bedroom Provencal *mas* (farmhouse), set in 300 acres of woodland and pasture, near the ski resort of Val drome, is for sale at FF£1.2 million. Another old farmstead, surrounded by 34 acres of truffle oaks, is on offer at FF£900,000 — or FF£4.2 million with the truffle orchard.

Prospective purchasers who are worried about the drop in sterling against the French franc should bear in mind that property prices in rural France are always negotiable. In areas where British buyers have, until recently, been the driving force, sellers will often accept offers, in some cases 15 to 25 per cent below asking prices.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Authentic France, Anvil Cottage, Stourton Canville, Sturminster Newton, Dorset (0963 63504).

How to win prizes for keeping quiet

Finding it difficult to keep the children amused during the long, dark evenings?

The answer, Jane Bidder says, is to get them hooked on competitions

The chance of winning something for nothing, apart from a little knowledge, is always attractive, and provides an opportunity for children to prove their artistic or verbal skills.

What better confidence booster than for a child to be able to cry, 'I've won'? And what an exciting way to while away the long, dark, winter evenings.

Competitions can also provide an incentive to learn such things as why the Harrier jump jet was so named (see the Natural Science Museum quiz), and they allow young minds to let their imaginations run riot (see the Halifax competition: What would you do if you were Home Alone?).

Below, with the help of my three children, I have tracked down the most exciting competitions for children through to teenagers. So now is the time to sharpen their pencils and your wits and get cracking on a competition that could bring a worthwhile prize.

Artistic writers can show off their calligraphic skills with the Osmiroid Spirit of the Letter Competition, run by Berol. There are four entry classes, from designing a small poster to producing a notice for a nature trail. Prizes include a calligraphic weekend and equipment. Closing date May 31 1993. Age ten upwards. Entry forms from Berol, Oldmeadow Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4JR.

Babies too young for most competitions can pose for a photograph to enter Mothercare's Happy Faces competition in either the 0-18 months category, or 18 months to five years. Running in selected stores throughout Britain, the competition prizes include a family holiday for four to Euro Disney in Paris, video camcorders and vouchers. Ring Paintbox Portraits on 0722 412202 to find your nearest store competition.

Colour a pantomime scene in *Snap* magazine (December issue) and win a Sega Master System, or one of 20 mystery Christmas stockings for runners-up (closing date December 14). Or, in the same issue, answer a simple question about a children's illustrator and win one of 20 chocolate selection stockings plus party tapes. Or, again, complete a sentence about Disney's *Basil the Great Mouse Detective* and win one of five videos. Closing date for these two competitions is December 20.

Canary comp: Enter the Heinz Spaghetti competition by filling in the prize draw form (inside the label) to win one of 1,000 Sega Master Systems II (are we the only family not to have one?). Closing date November 27.

What better confidence booster than for a child to be able to cry, 'I've won'?

Young writers: Look out for the Royal Mail Young Letter Writer competition - leaflets available in post-offices at the beginning of January. The theme is still to be decided: last year's subject was anything "green". Prizes range from £100 for regional winners to £400 for national winner. Closing date: first week in April.

Family holiday: Parents would be delighted if a child won a week's holiday in Boston for a family of four - the first prize in Harrods Freedom Trail in-store competition. The competition starts on December 14, when Father Christmas arrives (free admission to groto) and ends December 24. Entrants (under the age of 12) have to answer questions on New England landmarks.

Camera caper: Prove your photographic skills by taking a photograph (with your own camera or someone else's) and win a trip to the Wimbledon tennis next summer by joining the Halifax Building Society LittleExtra Club. Other competitions, detailed in the free club magazine, include identifying three

ring of January. The theme is still to be decided: last year's subject was anything "green". Prizes range from £100 for regional winners to £400 for national winner. Closing date: first week in April.



Aiming for the big one: William Bidder, aged eight, and his sister Lucy, six, absorbed in the challenge of a competition

road signs to win a Corgi garage, and completing a puzzle to pocket one of 30 *Where's Wally?* videos. Open to children under 11. Older children can enter the Halifax Quest club competitions: teachers include describing the first thing you would do if you found you were Home Alone. There are 20 videos as prizes. Closing date for all entries is March 29. Children can join the club at any Halifax branch by opening an account.

Make your own television commercial for Sega games and see the finished product on ITV next Easter. To be done in conjunction with your child's school. Teachers can send for a teaching pack (the project can be part of the National Curriculum requirements for business/media studies). For 14 to 16-year-olds only. Forms available from Nick Harris, CBH & Partners, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1. The many prizes include wide range of Sega goods. Closing date: January 30.

Other McDonalds competitions include designing an environmentally-themed collage (Stourbridge branch) with a prize trip to the

Natural History Museum in London (ends December 4), spot the difference at Luon McDonalds (ongoing), or write about "What I want for Christmas" in Middlesbrough (closes December 11).

Scribble a few lines about yourself and send in your picture to *Mandy & Judy* comic for its Reader of the Week competition. The winner receives a range of Polly Pocket Pretty Me cosmetics.

Telly addicts can win prizes every Sunday morning by watching BBC's *But First This* programme for children, 7.30am-12pm.

Under six year olds can design a Christmas picture in any medium and win Bluebird toys, including Jumbo Fun Plane, Big Red Fun Bus, Big Yellow Teapot, with teacups and lunchboxes for runners up. Watch Children's Channel on satellite/cable TV (8.45-10.45am and 1-3pm) or - if you don't have satellite - send entries to: Christmas Picture Competition, Jack in the Box, Children's Channel, 9-13 Grape Street, London WC2H 8DR. Closes December 7.

Watch out for a different competition every Saturday on *Going Live!* (BBC 9am-noon). Recent programmes have included answering questions to win lunch on the television *Brookside* set.

Adopt a chimp by answering a true/false question about chimpanzees in the Woolwich Building Society's Kids Club magazine (details below). You can then be the official adoptive owner of a four-legged pet at the Chimp Rescue Centre in Wareham, Dorset. Less zoo-minded readers might prefer tamer prizes from the Woolwich, such as *The Guinness Book of Records* (answer multiple choice questions) or a board game (spot the odd one out). Entry forms are in the company magazine, which is sent to you after opening an account for £1. Under-12s only.

Christmas picture in any medium and win Bluebird toys, including Jumbo Fun Plane, Big Red Fun Bus, Big Yellow Teapot, with teacups and lunchboxes for runners up. Watch Children's Channel on satellite/cable TV (8.45-10.45am and 1-3pm) or - if you don't have satellite - send entries to: Christmas Picture Competition, Jack in the Box, Children's Channel, 9-13 Grape Street, London WC2H 8DR. Closes December 7.

Events

LONDON

Viking weekend: A hands-on experience of prehistoric Scandinavia, devised by two Swedish music-archaeologists and suitable for seven to 12-year-olds. The workshops aim to show how music featured in Viking life. *Barbarian, Still Street, EC2* (071-638 8841). Sat, Sun, 1-3pm and 4-6pm.

Annual and the Night Visitors: An introduction to opera for five-year-olds and upwards. A cast of 21 singers (from Opera South) tell the story of the Three Kings' visit to a crippled shepherd boy. *Jackson's Lane Centre, 269a Archway Road, N6* (081-340 5236). Today, 11am.

Art workshop: An over-theaters workshop creating pop-up Christmas cards. *Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2* (081-661 2415). Today, 11am-1pm 2-4pm.

School Proms: The Albert Hall's annual "Music For Youth" concert with 15,000 players. *Albert Hall, SW7* (071-823 1093). Mon-Wed, 7pm.

NATIONWIDE

Breaking boundaries: The Irish theatre company, Wet Paint Arts explores issues of sexuality and relationships in *Tangles*, blending dance, drama, music, lyrics for over 14-year-olds. *Arden Theatre, Enniskillen* (0365 325440). Mon, 1.30pm. Old Bull Arts Centre, Barrie (081-449 0048). Wed, 8pm.

Dinosaur railways: Two giants of the steam age, the Britannia (No 70000) and Duke of Gloucester (No 71001), both standard 4-6-2 Pacific locomotives, will be in steam over the weekend and giving rides. *Didcot Railway Centre, Oxfordshire. Today, tomorrow, 11am-4pm.*

The Witches: Playwright David Wood, working with the talented illustrator Paul Kieve, adapts Roald Dahl's tale about some fearsome witches who plot to annihilate the world's children. *New Victoria Theatre, Peacock Arts Centre, Woking, Surrey* (0443 761144). Tues-Sat, 7pm; mat. Tues, Thurs, Fri 2pm; Sat, 11am and 2.30pm.

The Snow Queens: A rod-puppet show based on Andersen's fairy tale, with live music and voices. *Puppet Theatre, Whitefriars, Norwich* (0603 629921). Today, next Sat, 2.30pm.

KARI KNIGHT

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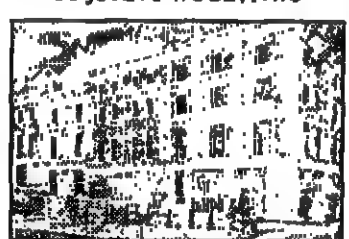
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WORD-WATCHING

Word-watching answers from page 20

NAPERY
(b) Linen used for household purposes, especially table linen. From Old French *naperie*: "The napery of the table was so foul and dirty, that I durst not conceive it had been washed above once."

VIRGULE
(b) A thin sloping or upright line, occurring in medieval MSS as a mark for the caesura or as a punctuation mark (frequently with the same value as the modern comma). Now in more general use. From the diminutive of the Latin *virga* a rod or wand: "The technical name of the sort slanting stroke between and/or in the device is virgule."

CYPRIAN
(a) Licentious, lewd, applied by hypocritical Victorian values to prostitutes, because Cyprus was famous in ancient times for its worship of Aphrodite or Venus. She was born out of the foam there: "The expenses of these poor Cyprians were not diminished in the same proportion as their gains."

GALIMATIAS
(a) Confused language, meaningless talk, nonsense, a word of unknown origin first found in the 16th century. Addison, Spectator: "The great Caviar was filled with a kind of Spongy Substance, which the French Anatomists call Galimatias, and the English, Nonsense."

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Paint the dull months with living colour

Francesca Greenoak visits a small grower with big ideas on chrysanthemums

Chrysanthemums from a small nursery in Suffolk provide a regular bright spot in the late-season shows run by the Royal Horticultural Society and, after admiring the blooms for years, I visited the nursery, which is owned by the O'Brien Baker family.

Reaching the outskirts of Martlesham village, I had no difficulty locating them: brilliant strips of colour led the eye to the farmhouse, which is home and headquarters for this family firm.

After a few sharp early frosts, it was interesting to see the chrysanthemums that stood up best to the weather. I liked Anne, a peachy-pink Korean chrysanthemum with bunches of knee-high, semi-double flowers, and Joan, daintier and very full-petaled in dusky pink.

Maureen Burrows (née O'Brien Baker) and Janet Dale, the head nurserywoman, who showed me around, also recommended the sherbet-lemon double Moonlight, and the brighter, single Wedding Sunshine for weather resistance and late flowering.

The lower field is the main growing ground for the Korean and the smaller Bird chrysanthemums. Standing in the autumn sun, among the shimmering gold, pink, bronze and peach was like being on a carpet of rich antique colours. The 60 or so varieties display an enormous and subtle vocabulary of differentiation in colour, petal density, shape and form.

I have always been fascinated by the so-called spoon-petaled form, where the petals are shaped like small, dainty quills. There were also dainty pompons, singles with gold daisy-like centres, and fluffy doubles, with their centres completely obscured. I much prefer the shape and neat proportion of these chrysanthemums to their outsize mop-head relations.

In addition to growing for shows and mail-order, the O'Brien Bakers sell cut flowers from the nursery

and supply local florists with blooms raised in their poly tunnels. The cuttings, pot plants for the shows and the exquisite, mini-chrysanthemums are also grown under cover. With chrysanthemums grown in pots the blooms remain perfect, whatever the weather, and can also be raised for display so you can see, close-to, the individual beauty of the flowers.

I wanted half the stock but in the end chose three: Bronzetti, with the crimson-red buttons, Saluore, similar but with a suffused deep pink, and Bertos, which has unusual long-petaled single bronze-gold flowers floppy stars. All three will be at the RHS show this week at Vincent Square in London.

These pretty Bird pot chrysanthemums flower for several weeks indoors and, being fairly hardy, may be planted outside afterwards. Mrs Burrows grows them on for two or more years in her cold Suffolk garden. They grow taller and more bushy after the first year, and bloom over a long season, especially if dead-headed.

Cuttings taken this month will make compact plants for next year. A non-flowering shoot should be picked off from the base of the plant, the stem snapped off so that the cutting is about 1 1/2 in/4 cm, the end dipped in rooting powder and

BEST BUYS

IVY is a great mainstay for container plantings in autumn and winter, and there are many tempting varieties available. The dainty small-leaved kinds, good in pots and window-boxes, come in a range of variations, such as the Ivory, the green-grey Glacier, and Sicilia, which has creamy markings and a slightly crimped leaf margin. If you prefer yellows, buy popular Gold Heart, Gold Child, with its butter yellow centre, or Gold Child with reverse coloration. These ivies can also be planted in the ground at this time of year.



Autumn glory: Maureen Burrows with her Bird chrysanthemums

firmed into a pot of compost. Father and son Daniel and Ian O'Brien Baker were away at a show, but I talked to Mrs Ida Baker, who is in her eighties and a nurserywoman all her life. She recalled meeting her husband while working for Amos Perry in the famous Enfield nursery in

Middlesex. He told them "never get too big", advice which they have never regretted taking. They have worked with plants for the better part of a century and still enjoy the firsthand contact with them.

● Home Meadows Nursery, Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4RD. Please send SAE for catalogue.



Pot perfect: the Glacier ivy

WEEKEND TIPS

- Remove vegetable debris to the compost heap, before it becomes a home for slugs.
- Protect globe artichokes and standing celery from hard frosts with straw or bracken.
- Transfer outdoor containers with winter plants to a sheltered spot; cover-wrap if necessary.
- Clear out any remaining summer bedding which has been frosted and torn by wind.
- Plant raspberry canes now, with their basal buds just above the soil.

Alan Coren



Our boy goes for the record — but will he get egg all over his face?

Man's poignant yearning for immortality takes him down strange roads. I have just taken myself 318 feet down mine, and I promise you that I have rarely felt stranger. If everything goes according to plan, I could be the next Jyrki Korhonen. This will mean that when I enter a room, that room will fall silent; the eyes of strong men will drop, and those of beautiful women will flutter. It would thus be pretty good to be the next Jyrki Korhonen. It wouldn't be quite as good as being the next Risto Antikainen, of course; but it would run it a damned close second.

Until this morning, it did not occur to me that this might ever be on the cards. Indeed, I had rarely toyed with intimations of immortality at all. You don't, in this business, you write it, along print it, a cheque comes along after a bit, and that's about the top and bottom of it. It is not *Paradise Lost*. People do not wrap cod in *Paradise Lost*. Nor have I ever done anything out of this business, either, to ensure that mine would be a name to all succeeding ages: I have not invented a major milk stout, founded a great heel-bar chain, discovered a new route to the Indies, ridden a Derby winner, or assassinated any archduke you've ever heard of, and my theory of relativity is rarely the subject of serious discussion when leading physicists foregather. In short, until this morning, the thing being shaved in the mirror belonged to one whose name was writ in water.

And then, mere moments after I had towelled that thing off, the post arrived. It contained a letter from Mr Peter Howell of Twickenham. Mr Howell was offering me immortality. After I had read his letter twice, I went out into the road with my surveyor's chain and measured 318 feet along it. Then I looked up into the sky, which is the point at which I have rarely felt stranger.

Because I had to attempt to imagine what it would be like to see a new-laid egg descending out of that sky towards me. Once I had done that, I had to imagine what it would be like to catch the egg. How fast would it be going? How would I reduce the risks attendant upon its contact with my hands? How, in short, could I be better than Jyrki Korhonen, so that Peter Howell could be better than Risto Antikainen?

Oh, come on, you remember.

On 6 September 1981, in a chilly field in Sillinjärvi, Finland, Risto took a deep breath and a short run and threw a new-laid egg at Jyrki. Jyrki was standing 317 feet 10 inches away. Nevertheless, he caught it in one piece. Whereupon Risto and Jyrki threw themselves, weeping, upon one another's necks, broached a mug of the best Finnish champagne money could buy, and wrote to *The Guinness Book of Records*, where they have remained ever since.

What they have also remained is a source of unwavering commitment on the part of Mr Howell. Mr Howell has for years dreamed of getting into *The Guinness Book of Records* by being the best man in the world at throwing an egg. He has been practising since 1988. How many eggs have been scrambled in pursuit of that dream his letter does not say, but what it does say is that it was all a question of coming up with a new technique for rifling the egg through the air. This he has recently perfected; he has thrown several new-laid eggs over 330 feet. And he is now ready for someone to catch them, because only if one is caught intact will his record be ratified.

He does not want just anyone to catch it, either. As he points out, any schoolboy cricketer could handle the job. Peter wants what

he flatteringly calls "a personality" to do it, so that he will garner the publicity his years of egg effort so manifestly deserve. God knows how long it took him to get down as far as me. I should like to see the replies he received, sequentially, from the Princess of Wales, Frank Bruno, Jimmy Tarbuck, Nicholas Parsons, Antonia de Sancha and so on, but here we are, he had got to me, and, well, yes, he had got to me. I was on the hook. I rather fancied my chances.

So, after I had returned from cringing at what 318 feet looked like, I went to the fridge and took out an egg. I didn't know whether its rather optimistic self-by-date disqualified it from being new-laid (if Risto and Jyrki took a hen with them and waited for it to deliver, the book does not say), but it would do for a dummy run, and I was encouraged to find that I could bung it about 20 feet up and catch it again, so far so good, but multiply that by 15, think about the 32ft per sec. per sec stuff we used to grapple with in 4b and who knew, it might be going like a bullet. I've read those strange-but-true tales about feathers being blown through steel sheet in earthquakes, pause for thought was called for. Would the game be worth the candle? Might I be egged to death?

Furthermore, in glancing at my 1991 book again, I noticed the category into which the event fell: Miscellaneous Endeavours. As these also included Longest Flute Marathon, Largest Jubilee Sale, Fastest Psychiatrist, Most People on Pillar Box, Biggest Ball of String, Furthest Spitting, and Man Most Frequently Struck by Lightning (Roy Sullivan of Virginia, seven times, poor bastard), I was forced to accept that egg-throwing was not quite up there with First Man On Moon; but, then, nor was I, and can't be now, and will have to take such immortality as seems achievable on offer.

So I'm writing back to Mr Howell to tell him it's on. The venue is Richmond Park, and since we have to make the attempt fairly soon to get in the 1994 edition, those of you wishing to speculate this event know where to go and what to look for. Two grown men, 320 feet apart, with an airborne egg somewhere between them. And if one of them is covered in yolk, you'll know we haven't quite cracked it yet.

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ROCK RECORDS: David Sinclair finds crazy psychedelic diamonds in a Pink Floyd retrospective

A source full of secrets

If ever a group saw the era of digital sound recording coming, it was Pink Floyd. Their penchant for extended "conceptual" pieces and their skill in moulding a panoply of sonic textures into an evocative musical whole is ideally suited to CD, yet dates back to the group's earliest recordings.

Shine On, (EMI 80557 2, eight discs), a boxed set retailing at about £110, represents the heart of the Floyd legacy (more or less), all digitally remastered to modern standards of perfection. The classics are here, naturally — *Dark Side Of The Moon*, *Wish You Were Here* and *The Wall* (two discs) — and there is a highly desirable "bonus" ten-track disc, which incorporates all the early singles and B-sides, as well as a hardback book and other trimmings. However, the absence of the band's outstanding debut, *The Piper At The Gates Of Dawn*, is a grave and mysterious shortcoming.

Like so many of the prototype rock bands of the 1960s, Pink Floyd's work has turned out to have a curious and unexpected resonance in the 1990s. Their original acid-spiced vision of rock as a vehicle for interplanetary flights of the imagination has clearly influenced acts like the Orb, whose chart-topping "ambient house" album *U.F.Orb* is perhaps the logical outcome of the textual, impressionistic approach which Pink Floyd pioneered on the two earliest albums in this set, *A Saucerful Of Secrets* and *Meddle*.

The odd genius of the Floyd was in creating coherence from often random or even chaotic raw materials. At times this produced some pretty meaningless and pretentious extra-

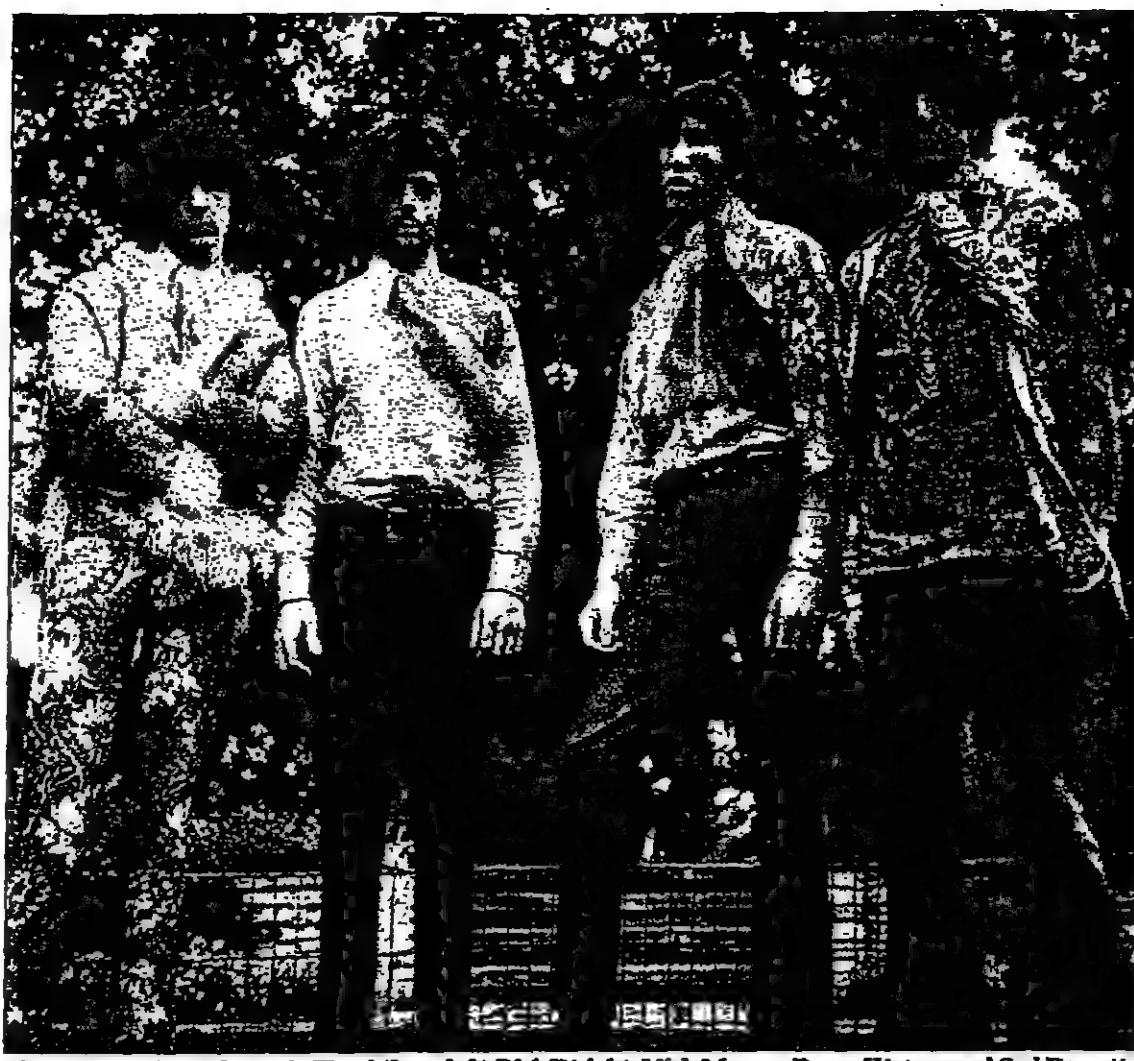
gances, but at its best their work is guided, as if by some divine, slow-moving hand, towards a distant vision of excellence.

Chris Rea conjures an almost Floydisian mood of languid perfection on the long sweeping guitar introduction to "Nothing to Fear", the first track on his impressive new album *God's Great Banana Skin* (east west 4509-9095-2). Rea's voice gets gruffer, his guitar sound creamier and his mood bleaker with each successive release.

The tone of this collection is set by "90's Blues", a stately expression of melancholia underpinned by a discreet string arrangement and an intriguingly off-track instrumental passage. It is music which chimes perfectly with the worries and needs of a middle-aged generation seeking an expression of its woes set to music of a slower metabolic rate than the rock 'n' roll of its youth.

Meanwhile, the former voice of that same generation, Bob Dylan, is now a man so out of joint with the times that it hurts. *Good As I Been To You* (Columbia 472710 2), is, incredibly, the first since *Bob Dylan*, his 1962 debut, to feature the master's voice accompanied by nothing other than his own acoustic guitar and harmonica.

The 13 titles — all traditional folk songs, such as "Frankie and Albert" and "Little Maggie" — are given the one-take, rambling, shambling, got-a-clothes-peg-on-muh-nose treatment that will surely prompt an involuntary wince from even the most diehard of fans. A chance hearing of "She Belongs To Me" on the radio



Groovy, or what? The early Floyd (from left) Rick Wright, Nick Mason, Roger Waters and Syd Barrett

the other day was a timely reminder both of the magnitude of Dylan's former brilliance and of the depths to which he has sunk with this embarrassing farago.

In the wake of Nirvana's multi-platinum success, the specific gravity of mainstream rock has increased by several tons. Groups that used to sound respectably heavy — Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Van Halen even — now seem comparatively lightweight, while a new generation of acts such as Pearl Jam, Alice In Chains and an evolved Metallica have moved in to the middle ground with a guitar sound that even three years ago would have limited their

appeal to the specialist headbangers end of the market.

Stone Temple Pilots, a four-piece from Los Angeles, are the latest contributors to this process. Their estimable debut, *Core* (Atlantic 7567-82418-2), is an inspired piece of work that adds the occasional acoustic guitar ballad ("Creep") and a few knuckle-crunching jazz-rock progressions (notably "Sin", with its Allan Holdsworth-style guitar soloing) to essentially the same mix of melody and muscle that has served Pearl Jam and the others so well.

It is a strange irony that although these acts all owe their existence to one British band, Led Zeppelin, they

are without exception American. Rather like tennis, we have invented the game but failed to bring on any new stars. In fact, the only UK group of any substance to buck the trend is the Belfast trio Therapy?

Therapy's third album, *Nurse*, (A&M 540 044) combines a scalding punk-metal guitar tone with some quirky arrangements, and a deeply morbid sense of humour. Produced by Harvey Birrell, the collection is not as focused as those of its American counterparts, but tracks such as "Teethgrinder", "Nausea" and the epic "Gone" conceal an imaginative, inquisitive quality beneath a brutish veneer.

Surreal setting for Strindberg

A strange and haunting new choral work will be performed at the Barbican's Scandfest tomorrow. As a grand finale to their choral weekend, Sweden's Eric Ericson Chamber Choir will sing "The Wind's Lament", a great chorus of socio-ecological mourning which could have been written yesterday, but in fact is lifted straight out of Strindberg's *A Dream Play*. The chorus, a powerful self-contained piece in itself, is taken from the denouement of a new opera which is this month's hottest ticket in Stockholm.

OPERA PREVIEW

A Dream Play
Royal Opera
Stockholm

characteristically "northern" freezing and thawing of harmonic clusters. Dramatically, Götz Friedrich and his designer Peter Sykora, have devised massive and virtuosic scene changes for each corner of the troubled world of man visited by the god Indra's daughter. Despite the deftness of these scene changes — from vast planetarium, to surreal degree ceremony, to theosophical symbolic Fingal's Cave, to music-hall sanitarium and back again — one could not help thinking how much more effective a near-vestigial setting would have been. Strindberg wanted his characters and scenes to "evaporate, condense, disperse and assemble" as they do, so effectively, in Lidholm's music.

But Lidholm wanted a raring good show, and that is what they have achieved. Enthusiastically conducted by Kjell Ingebräsen, strongly cast with Hakana Hagegard and Hillevi Martinpelto (alternating with Eva Odenberg) in the lead roles of Officer and Daughter, and with Lidholm's choral writing realised in outstanding song and staged chorally numbers, this *Dream Play* is a powerful re-creation of Strindberg's surreal sea-saw of cynicism and compassion.

HILARY FINCH

The performance is at St Giles, Chippingdale (071-635 8891) tomorrow at 7pm.

Gently does it

JAZZ RECORDS

ONCE rated as a potential heir to Charlie Parker, Frank Morgan went off the rails in the mid-1950s, succumbing to heroin addiction and embarking on a lifestyle which led to spells in such academies of the fine arts as San Quentin.

All this, of course, makes for colourful copy, but it should not obscure the fact that he has emerged as a supremely lyrical alto saxophonist.

When he made his comeback about seven years ago he was still being talked about in terms of Parker's influence, but over the past few years the tempos have slackened considerably and a more pensive mood has developed. Three cheers for that: the world already has more than enough Parker clones.

Morgan's *A Love Story* (Bluebird 1991) is one of my favourite recordings of 1991. With *You Must Believe In Spring* (Amiles 314-512-570), the introduction is taken a step further in a series of ballads per-

formed with five seasoned pianists: Kenny Barron, Tommy Flanagan, Barry Harris, Roland Hanna and Hank Jones.

The collection is cleverly programmed, each pianist playing a solo number before Morgan steps in for a duet. While the opening shot — "But Beautiful" — is a slickish excursion around the keyboard, the pieces that follow have greater depth. It is no surprise that Flanagan takes the honours.

As for Morgan, his playing is sometimes reduced to the barest whisper. As he nudges his way through each song, the phrasing is so frail and spare that you are afraid he might disappear in a wisp of smoke. Left exposed like this, most saxophonists would be tempted to hide behind lavish ornamentation and abrupt tempo changes. Morgan simply lets his instrument sing.

CLIVE DAVIS

Cases of conspicuous consumption

OPERA RECORDS

stuff, a big soprano and full of defiance as she declares her independence in "Sempere libera". Studer now conveys a great deal of emotion in her singing, never more so than in the offending woman at Flora Bervoix's party.

She is a complete Violetta, tackling the coloratura with ease and showing the right mixture of fight and despair in the final act.

A pity, then, that the Germon family could not show similar character. Pavarotti's Alfredo has its moments, mainly loud ones as in the impassioned return to Violetta before "Parigi, o cara". But in that duet the voice sounds dry, as it does sometimes elsewhere, and this will not rank among his most persuasive opera sets.

Joan Pons, as Germon Pire, has

vocal richness, but never rises above an overall blandness. The barely suppressed fury with which Giorgio Germont would address Flora's party guests has the satisfied tones of a company chairman opening a comfortable AGM. Several of the supporting roles are poorly taken.

Rizzi opts for a far lighter and often more delicate orchestral touch on Teldec. His *Traviata* is more intimate, at times even ironic when Verdi deliberately uses tawdry music offstage to counterpoint the on-stage drama. He lacks the grand gestures for the second scene of Act II, but otherwise this is a most suspicious debut for his new recording company.

Gruberova's Violetta is more fragile than Studer's and the Teldec engineers, anxious to extract the last

ounce of pathos, sometimes make her all but inaudible, especially in her confrontation with Alfredo's papa. But Gruberova knows all about this part and she is equally capable of handling the introspection of "E strano", and the vocal fireworks which follow as Violetta reclaims her freedom — temporarily.

Shicoff, despite a slight sob in the voice, is a clean-toned and properly infatuated Alfredo. Giorgio Zancanaro carries all the gravity and understanding that Pons lacks in Act II, as Giorgio Germont's disdain of Violetta changes to grudging admiration. Silken singing.

A well-chosen supporting cast make this an attractive proposition. But first choice among recent sets still goes to Kleiber on DG, with Cornubus and Domingo unsurpassed as the victims of salon life.

JOHN HIGGINS



Cheryl Studer: complete Violetta

Competing *Traviatas* arrive this month to join shelves already well stocked with Verdi's opera. DG (435 797 2, 2 CDs) turn to James Levine and The Met in New York, bringing out the heavy artillery led by Cheryl Studer and, on loan from Decca, Luciano Pavarotti. Teldec's recording (9031 76348-2, 2 CDs) is London-based with the LSO under Carlo Rizzi, making his debut on the label. Edita Gruberova and Neil Shicoff are the lovers who should never have met across a crowded Paris salon.

Levine and The Met's orchestra go for a febrile *Traviata*. Right from the start, time appears to be running out for all concerned. The strings in particular are full of nervous palpitations, at times skittering through the music, although Levine draws exquisitely refined playing from them in the Act III prelude.

Studer's Violetta is made of sterner

Joan Pons, as Germon Pire, has

Martin Hoyle sits uncomfortably through two plays

Trouble among the cheeses

WRITING scripts for *The Archers* has affected Louise Page's style. A new play from the author of *Salomika* and *Golden Girls*, winner of the J.G. Grein Critics Circle Award, should be a great event. But laboured plotting, inconsistent characterisation and a cursory nod to stereotyping bespeak the radio soap. Disappointment is the lesser since Page introduces an unusual theme — the illegal market in protected birds — into a new variant of the old north-south, rich-poor dichotomy. The southerner in this depressed north Midlands town is himself first-generation rich, insecure, still in trade, though these days his business lies in a delicatessen shop rather than industry. His passion for breeding hawks leads to stealing eggs from the nest in a derelict factory; and thence to tragedy.

The plot is full of puzzles. Even if one reconciles a pover-

Hawks and Doves
Nuffield Theatre,
Southampton

ty-stricken working-class area with the delicatessen-buying public, the individual characters seem incomplete or contradictory. An actress as intelligent as Gillian Bevan struggles to make sense of the year impossible honesty, uprightness and shining virtue of the working-class heroine. The uncertain focus is summed up in a scene where the well-meaning southerner Otto (why Otto?) introduces her to the joys of his food shop and she protests the only cheeses she knows are cheddar, cheshire and that old proletarian staidy, brie. Again, it stretches credibility that Otto could employ half the local council estate in various capacities — gardener,

char, shop assistant, thief — without their knowing about the others or his realising their relationships.

The tragedy is that the play might say something about money corrupting and good intentions reeking havoc; but it emerges as an admittance anecdote about the destructiveness of delicatessen owners in the north Midlands.

Tanya McCallin's stylishly brooding set is backed by a vast, blotched rock face, transformed into the crumbling factory in Act II. Patrick Sandford directs a fine cast, though Michael Sinkins fails to fill in the blank of Otto's character. Tam Hoskins's warm and rueful personality makes Otto's rich bitch girlfriend too nice. Thomas Craig does what he can with Marie's estranged husband who casually assumes his wife is on the game; and little Alex Scott is splendid as the young son who believes him.

Trumpet but little flourish

THE new play from Lumiere and Son could be the account of three people reacting differently to extra-terrestrial visitors. It could be an allegory of the id, suppressed by the ego, healthily asserting itself in the cause of a balanced personality. Or it could be a sad illustration of how a technically distinguished fringe company stagnates through taking itself too seriously.

Margaret, Paul and Eileen are friends. Their three bedrooms are visible on the set by Sanja Jurca Avdi and a host of theatre design students. Margaret is neurotic, vague and flutery. Eileen is efficient,

Abduction
ICA

hard-bitten and given to making leaden wisecracks. Paul fancies her, is fanned by Margaret, and plays the trumpet in his underpants.

Margaret is the first to receive a mysterious visitor. He simply appears in her room, in overcoat, tatty, gloves and scarf. For most of the time he sits and watches. Occasionally he addresses her in the plummy soothing tones of the vicar in *The Archers*. Intoxicated by this, she pulls up her skirt, tugs

down her pants, and plucks at her pudenda.

The others are each visited by an identically dressed stranger. Paul, walking naked in bed, reacts hysterically as if under sexual threat. Eileen rages. She remains the only one not to give in; for even Paul resigns himself to the silent interloper and, still naked, takes up the trumpet again after sticking in a mute.

The three friends quarrel. Understandably depressed, or possibly bored, the visitors depart, leaving their hosts wistfully aware of some sort of loss and the audience numbly aware of how long 75 minutes can be.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

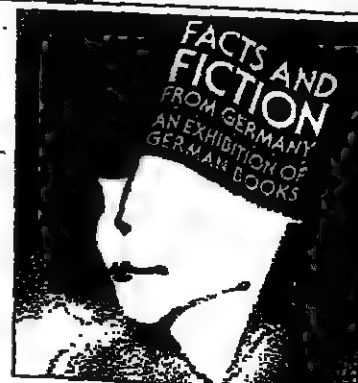
Time frames

The world is experiencing a severe bout of Pre-Millennial Tension as recession turns into depression, values erode, and the media manipulators inflict what appears to be a fatal art attack on society...

We are staring into the black hole of post-modernism. "Post" suggests not that something is ending, but that everything is already over.

Ours is a real decadence, summed up by the shrink-wrapped sexuality of Madonna and the porcelain pornography of Jeff Koons...

Robert Hewison, in *The Culture*, asks whether seeds of renewal will be able to grow into the next century out of the nasty 1990s — *The Sunday Times* tomorrow



LONDON

November 19-20, 1992
Westminster Central Hall
Storey's Gate, London SW1

November 23
Central Hall, 7pm

Opening hours:
Monday and Thursday
10am - 10pm
Tuesday, Wednesday
Friday and Saturday
10am - 7pm
Sunday closed

"Out of the frying pan into the fire?"
Panel discussion about the situation of German writers before and after 1990.
For tickets and further information please ring 071 411 3441

PREVIEWS FROM 1 DEC • OPENS 11 DEC
DUNCAN C. WELDON
presents
ROBERT LINDSAY
AS
Cyrano de Bergerac
By EDMOND ROSTAND In a new version by JOHN WELLS
with JULIAN GLOVER
RICHARD O'CALLAGHAN
and STELLA GONET
Directed by ELIJAH MOSHINSKY
Designed by MICHAEL YEARGAN Lighting by DAVID HERSEY
THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET
HAYMARKET • LONDON SW1
BOX OFFICE: 071 930 8800 INC CREDIT CARDS (NO BRG FEE)
TICKETMASTER 071 344 4444 (WITH BRG FEE)

BBC1

- 7.00 **Champion of the Wonder Horse**. Children's drama (i) (4306247)
 7.25 **News and weather** (1204022)
 7.30 **Spider**. Musical cartoon (i) (8267593) 7.35 **Animal World**.
 Galapagos. The island home of the giant tortoise (s) (2353334)
 7.45 **Quick Draw McGraw**. Cartoon fun (i) (2680882) 7.50 **Libra**.
 Bites. Cartoon adventures of the forest peas (i) (2525266) 8.15
Chucklevision. Paul and Barry cause further mayhem (i)
 (5647841) 8.25 **Buckley O'Hare**. Cartoon adventures of the floppy-
 eared superhero (i) (1685315)
 9.00 **Going Live!** Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield are joined by Nigel
 Kennedy, Michael Palin, Jason Donovan, Jonathan Penry and
 Jeremy Anderson (s) (1413840) 12.12 **Weather** (3433334)
 12.15 **Grandstand** introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up includes
 (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football Focus; a review of the week's
 World Cup qualifying football; 12.50 News; 12.55 Racing from
 Aintree: 1.15 Stanley Leisure Novices Chase; 1.45 Ladbrokes
 November Handicap Hurdle; 2.25 Crowthorne Hurdle; 2.55
 Handicap Chase; and from Ascot: 1.00 Manicou Handicap Chase;
 1.30 Fortis Handicap Hurdle; 2.05 H and T Walker Gold Cup; 2.35
 and 4.30 Snooker: the latest news of the fifth round matches in the
 Royal Liver Assurance UK championship from the Guildhall,
 Preston; 2.50 Rugby Union: live coverage from the National
 Stadium in Cardiff of the match between Wales and Australia; 4.40
Final Score (1520271); Northern Ireland: 4.55 Results (5795264)
 5.05 **News with Maria Stuart**. Weather (8205070) 5.15 Regional news
 and weather (2617570)
 6.20 **Dad's Army**. Put That Light Out. Arthur Lowe and John Le
 Mesurier star in the evergreen Home Guard comedy. The platoon
 is sent to guard the local lighthouse (i). (Ceeftax) (2077247)
 6.50 **Big Break**. Innocuous snooker quiz in which Jim Davidson and
 John Virgo are joined by Dore O'Kane, Ray Reardon and Mike
 Hallett. (Ceeftax) (i) (640131)
 6.50 **News at Ten**. Paddy Garth Crooks is the unwitting recipient of this
 week's Gollins Oscar in another jargon of resistible fun (s)
 (174805)
 7.15 **Brice Forsyth's Generation Game**. Four couples compete for
 the prize on the conveyor belt. With Rosemarie Ford. (Ceeftax) (s)
 (647889)
 8.15 **Casualty**. Making Waves. Gritty medical drama set in the accident
 and emergency department of a city hospital. Martin Jarvis and his
 real-life wife Rosalind Ayres play a couple involved in a boating
 accident. (Ceeftax) (s) (536420)
 9.05 **News and sport with Maryon Lewis**. (Ceeftax). Weather (755088)



Haunting: Daryl Hannah with Steve Guttenberg (9.25pm)

- 9.25 **Film: High Spirits** (1988)
 ● CHOICE: Neil Jordan, who had made the tough thriller *Angel* and
 the stylish *Mona Lisa*, seemed an unlikely director for this light but
 enjoyable piece of whimsy about a drunken Irish aristocrat (Peter
 O'Toole) who tries to save the crumbling family pile by pretending it
 is haunted. The busloads of American tourists, led by Steve
 Guttenberg and Beverly D'Angelo, duly arrive, but are unimpressed
 until a real ghost materialises in the attractive shape of Daryl
 Hannah. Jordan, who was his own screenwriter, has fun, though
 perhaps not enough, with the culture clash between his Irish and
 American stereotypes, while O'Toole's performance is not notable
 for understatement. But in the end the film belongs to Hannah and
 the special effects department. (Ceeftax) (s) (4131627)
 11.00 **Match of the Day**. Desmond Lyman introduces highlights of two of
 this afternoon's Premier League matches (i) (542668)
 12.00 **Smoker**. David Vine introduces coverage of the Royal Liver
 Assurance UK championship from the Guildhall, Preston (73700)
 1.00am **Weather** (7324716)

SATellite

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- 5.00 **Trans World Sport**. Sporting news (t) (67532) 7.00 **Tales 5**. For younger viewers (4386629) 7.25 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon (2155716) 7.35 **Little Wizard**. Animation (7756561) 8.00
- Sandoak**. Adventures with the prairie prince (531918) 8.30 **Wife Swap**. When husbands and wives swap places (531918) 8.35 **Wife Swap**. Classic series (4577718) 9.25 **Laurel and Hardy**. Comedy with Stan and Ollie (930380) 9.30 **Dennis**. Cartoon adventures of the mischievous boy and his friends (t) (5693532)
- 9.45 **Flipper**. Adventures of the friendly dolphin (439498)
- 10.15 **If Wishes Were Horses**. The children go on a riding holiday (t) (Teletext) (6139) 10.45
- 10.45 **Secrets of the Sea**. The underwater adventures of the submarine Saseel and her crew (t) (827764)
- 11.15 **Little House on the Prairie: Quarantine**. Homespun (family drama series starring Michael Landon (823938)
- 12.15 **Classic Cars: Wheels of Gold**. Auctioning cars is big business and can lead to courtroom battles (t) (930950)
- 1.15 **Golden State**. A police action series, including AC Milan Inter: Tonno v Juventus and Sampdoria v Lazio (13434532)
- 3.00 **Film: Man with the Gun** (1955, b/w). Intelligent western starring Robert Mitchum as a gunslinger who, while searching for his estranged wife (Jan Sterling), does battle with a crooked rancher. Directed by Richard Wilson (584087)
- 5.05 **Magoo's Puddle Jumping**. An Oscar-winning cartoon (2513700)
- 5.15 **News** and weather (2618208)



Music lovers: Glenda Jackson and Ken Russell (10.35pm)

10.35 The South Bank Show: The Secret Life of Sir Arnold Bax
CHOICE: Ken Russell's latest composer biopic finds the director not only playing his leading character but in a mellow mood which largely eschews the excesses of previous work. He picks up the story in the 1940s, when Bax has just written the score for David Lean's film of *Olivier Twist*. Russell is clearly a fan of Bax's lush romantic music but even more interested in the composer's private life, his long and pucky relationship with the pianist Harriet Cohen (Glenda Jackson) and her penchant for picking up young women, here represented by a cinema usherette-cum-fan-dancer (Hetty Baynes). Russell the actor does not offer a large range, but his portrait of a sad old man whose music has fallen out of favour is true and moving. As for Russell the director, this is a restrained performance and all the more effective for it! (a) (452803)
11.05 The Last Days of Pompeii (TV) Hiltner. The showman in concert (d) (261342)
12.45 Libero at the Casino de Monte-Carlo (TV) Hiltner. The showman in concert (d) (822168) **2.20 The Hit Club Show** (r) (a) (514476)
3.25 Coach. Hayden recasts a player from out of town (a) (498656)
4.00 Flick of the Week, Regional ITV highlights (11236)
5.30 Memories of 1970-1991. Archive film from 1981 (s) (97895)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe (37052), Ends at 6.00

- 5.15 **High Interest Super! Markets**, Sarsbury, Tesco and Sainsbury have become so profitable that they are embarking on extensive programmes of expansion. But retail analysts claim that shoppers will have to pay the price (p. 67/72006)
- 6.00 **The Hippo**, Australian larynx dance (14/5)
- 6.30 **The Cosby Show**, American comedy show. (Teletext) (975)
- 7.00 **Equinox: The Puzzle of HIV**. After a decade of intensive research, the HIV virus is still baffling scientists. Using microscopic and computer images, this programme sets out on a journey inside the human body and examines how the virus destroys internal defences against it. (Teletext) (8/48)
- 8.00 **The Royal Collection: The Royal Image**. In the last in the series, Christopher Lloyd looks at how state portraits illustrate the changing role of the monarchy. (Teletext) (6/4377)
- 8.30 **American Football**. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imach introduce highlights of the game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the New York Giants
- 10.00 **Film: Above Us the Waves** (1955, b/w). Standard second world war heroics with John Mills and Donald Sinden leading a mid-20th century submarine attack against a German battleship. Directed by Ralph Thomas (330025)
- 11.50 **Film: The Hour of the Star** (1968). The Latin American Cinema movement begins with a drama from Brazil about a orphan girl who travels to the big city to seek her fortune. Starring Marcelle Carrazo. Directed by Suzana Amaral. In Portuguese with English subtitles (258377) Ends at 1.35am

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. For more details call 0800 0 1304 or 1304 charged at 49p per minute peak, 36p off-peak or write to VideoPlus+, Acorn's Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Plantation Wharf, London SW11 3TN. VideoPlus+™, Pluscode™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

Fashion

SKY ONE

V As the Astras and Macropoli continue to battle for Power (5:55p) 7:00 *Fur* (1991) (5115371) 11:30 *The World Tomorrow* (19067) 12:00 *Love Is a Game* (30654) 1:00 *Police* (19852) 2:00 *The Simpsons* (25531) 3:00 *It's Easy to Be Tough* (44452) 4:00 *Mr. 2-Dango* (500) 4:30 *Jump Start* (4532) 6:00 *Cartoon* (19852) 7:00 *Hi Five* (4532) 8:00 *The Real World: New York* (56153) 9:00 *The Real World: Los Angeles* (53259) 10:00 *Real World: Miami* (56153) 11:00 *Real World: Tokyo* (70525) 12:00 *Pages from Skyline*

SKY NEWS

V As the Astras and Macropoli continue to battle for Power (5:55p) 7:00 *News* (45947) 9:00 *News*

SKY MOVIES+

V As the Astras and Macropoli continue to battle for Power (5:55p) 7:00 *Shogun* (40554545)

10:00 How to Beat the High Cost of Living (1991) (45947) *James Cameron's True American Heroes* (1991) (45947) *James Garner plays a con-man with a heart* (1991) (45947)

11:00 *Animal Crackers* (1991) (45947)

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10.00 Classic FM Concert: Milton Keynes SO under Winton performs Grouch (Overture in G),
 Innelli (Piano Concerto in F), Potier (Symphony No 8) 10.00 Sunday Night Out 11.00
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Havens of hedonism

Nigella Lawson casts a critical eye over the insulated worlds of Harold Pinter's *Party Time* and *Hello!* magazine



"IS IT silly to say I feel proud?" asks a character in Harold Pinter's *Party Time*, which had its television premiere on Channel 4 on Tuesday. "I mean to be part of the society of beautifully dressed people. God, I don't know: elegance, style, grace, taste. Don't these words, these concepts, mean anything any more? I'm not alone, am I, in thinking them incredibly important?"

No, she is not alone. There are half a million like her who buy *Hello!* magazine every week. And that's more, as *Hello!*, the first of Channel 4's new business series, *High Interest*, informed us last Sunday, than the combined monthly circulations of *Vogue*, *Tatler* and *Harpers & Queen*.

As recession deepens, *Hello!*'s circulation figures climb. Outside its pages may be unemployment, poverty, crime and punishment, just as outside Pinter's party there are the overhead helicopters, the road blockades and round-ups, while inside the magazine, at the party, all is wealth and comfort, expensive swimming and tennis clubs, idyllic island retreats.

To think of it all as innocent escapism is to miss the point of *Hello!* and the reason for its success: it is an adept averting of the gaze — from ugliness, nastiness, anything that rots the expensive fabric of a society that wishes to be beyond criticism.

"They don't try to put the person down, to be too critical," Ivana Trump explained to the Channel 4 team. "I know there's going to be a tremendous amount of accuracy," Stephanie Powers confided euphemistically. Or, as Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, a magazine which is the very antithesis of *Hello!*, put it: "No one has ever been that unquestioning to celebrity fame and power."

TV REVIEW

Hello! is the sister magazine of *iHola!*, which has been in continuous publication, from Eduardo Sanchez Junco's family apartment in Madrid, since 1944. And like Pinter's party guests, it has flourished happily, blithely, through dictatorship. It breezed through the totalitarian regime under Franco. "There was press censorship, no freedom. But it didn't affect *iHola!*," said Alfonso Ussia, a Spanish journalist. "How can you censor ideas in a magazine that doesn't have any?"

iHola! and *Hello!* don't have ideas: they have friends, friends who are royal, friends who are arms dealers, friends who are stars. Our own Princess of Wales is the most recurring figure in their pages, along with Adnan Kashoggi and Elizabeth Taylor.

Two months after Robert Maxwell's death, when the financial scandals revealed by his demise were still erupting, *Hello!* paid a visit to "Betty Maxwell's French Retreat". No hard questions asked, just nice pictures of soft furnishings. "There is", or so the editorial line goes, "no point in embarrassing people."

The linchpin of the exercise is the Marquessa de Varela, a woman who, according to Nigel Dempster, the *Daily Mail* gossip columnist, goes around the world with a Louis Vuitton bag stuffed with cash. These interviews do not come cheap: Elizabeth Taylor was paid £100,000 for the exclusive coverage of her seventh wedding, with funds going to charity, naturally. The Marquessa, an elusive figure ("I think I'm not going to answer questions about the Marquessa," came the coy stonewalling from the *Hello!* office) is the one who woos the big names and wins their confidence. The *Daily Mail*, apparently, tried to track her down for

two years without success. It was *High Interest*'s coup to have got her, extracting the first interview she has ever given.

The Louis Vuitton cash-stash was pooh-poohed: "I never wear Vuitton all my life," evidently the allegation was as wounding on sartorial as on ethical grounds. But she amiably enough divulged to the camera her tricks: "One of my weapons is that they can trust me, trust us... I am," she reiterated, "a close friend of many of these people. I was married to a marquis and enjoyed a high social life."

The Marquessa planned to show us how a *Hello!* interview was done. In a Shaw Taylor-like reconstruction of a crime, we swept up in a taxi with her to the Lanesborough hotel, Hyde Park Corner, to see Ivana Trump. "I am an old friend of Ivana and Ivana's friends," she reminded us. "First of all I will remind her where we met, so she will realise we have a lot of friends in common and feel more relaxed." Oh, that sort of old friend.

Ivana, suitably relaxed, posed for photographs and answered probing questions such as "Ivana, what is your ideal city to live?"

This intimate reunion between old friends had to be filmed into the half-hour Ivana had available, even though, of course, something a little more intensive and extensive would seem to emerge, ultimately, on the page. No problem for the Marquessa — or for Ivana: "She's thin, she's successful and she's happy, so it's an easy one."

A breathe [sic] of fresh air who comes into your hands once a week is the Marquessa's description of *Hello!*. "Easy reading and beautiful photos, with a lot of morality and integrity." But the real breath of fresh air was provided by this documentary film, which brought to its subject the techniques of investigative journalism and solid enquiry the magazine so



Adeptly avoiding the world outside: Nicola Pagett (Charlotte), Roger Lloyd Pack (Fred) and Barry Foster (Gavin) in Harold Pinter's *Party Time*

pointedly lacks. And, rare for a business programme of this sort, the graphics were a real aid to understanding.

The exclusive swimming and tennis club about which Pinter's party guests rhapsodise shares *Hello!*'s sense of morality and integrity. Helicopters are heard chattering threateningly across the sky, but in the room the talk is of the club. It's beautiful. It's got everything... hot towels, gold-plated service, luxury. More, as Lady Melissa (Dorothy Tutin) informs us as she "subscribes wholeheartedly" to the enconium the club has been so glitteringly given, "it is based on a moral foundation". The moral, one deduces, is to wrap oneself up in one of the club's hot towels, not to look outside in the street, not to

notice what might be going on outside or to ask, as Dusty (Cordelia Roche) does: "What's happened to Jimmy?" as, like a chorus repeated throughout the play, she tries to find out what has become of her brother, one of those we, infer, who has been rounded up.

But that is not on the agenda. And she, anyway, her bullish, yobish husband informs her, doesn't have an agenda. "You just have to shut up and mind your own business." All she is required to do is tell everyone about the club. She does: "It's beautiful. It's got everything."

Party Time's transfer from the Almeida theatre to the screen is a successful one. An insistent use of close-up gives the menacing sense of being pulled in by the scruff of the neck. For this production, Pinter

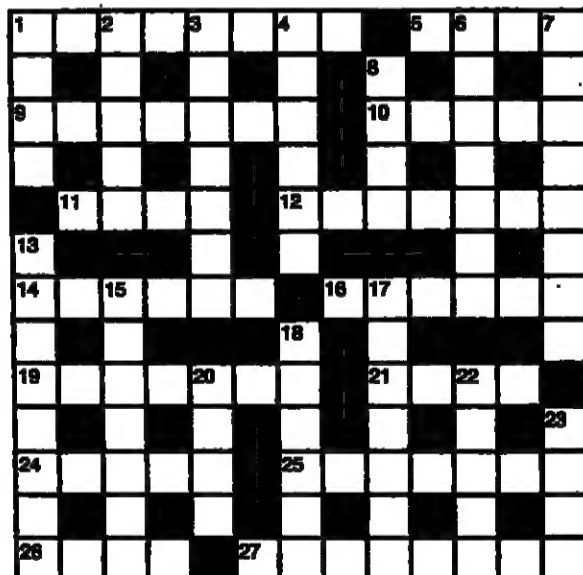
wrote in extra characters, and the running time is a little longer than it was on stage. And under his direction — deliberate, stylised, muscularly tight, almost choreographed — the play seemed to take shape like a series of formal dances.

The trouble in the streets is alluded to only foggedly. There is mention of traffic problems, of road-blocks, of a round-up. Under this shadow it is tempting to interpret the party's conversation piece — the club, "our club" — as a metaphor for some band of power-brokers, the Establishment. But what singularly comes across is the literalness of this club. It is the epitome of the values and virtues of the bourgeoisie here assembled, a haven of narcissism and luxurious hedonism. Whatever else is going on outside in the world, it pampers, comforts and insulates. Rather like *Hello!*

The dialogue is Pinter at his most staccato, but also lyrical. The characteristic repetitions, the reiterated banalities, give the actors' speech the sense of a prose rondeau.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2951



- ACROSS**
- Sneak (8)
 - Weapons (4)
 - Provisions (7)
 - Okay (5)
 - Army runabout (4)
 - White egg hen (7)
 - Prey (6)
 - Russian plain (6)
 - Intoxicating drink (7)
 - Flatten (4)
 - Distributor arm (5)
 - Fighter (7)
 - Scratch (4)
 - Intravenous solution (8)
- DOWN**
- Mountain pool (4)
 - Flexible (5)
 - Cavalry soldier (7)
 - Finally (6)
 - Come together again (7)
 - New arrival (8)
 - Diluted rum (4)
 - Fleet unit (8)
 - Self-denying (7)
 - Turbulent currents (7)
 - Blossom (6)
 - Difficult (4)
 - Moan (5)
 - Nasty residue (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2950

ACROSS: 1 Cromwell 2 Aloes 3 Withstand 4 Gru 5 Lump 6 Supply 7 Fenury 8 Method 9 Climax 10 Anil 11 Mar 12 Astronomy 13 Spell 14 Untapped

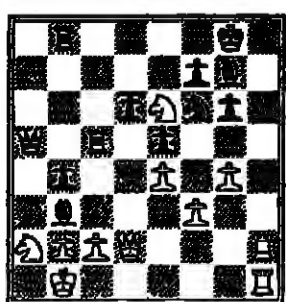
DOWN: 1 Cowslip 2 Ottoman 3 Wasp 4 Lead up 5 Dodgy 6 Pseud 7 Adapted 8 Arrival 9 Hencoop 10 Delayed 11 Hasten 12 Smash 13 Creed 14 Zola

WINNING MOVIE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Camacho — Ruiz, Cuba 1992. White is a piece down, and if he recaptures on b3, then his knight on e6 will be loose. However, he has a crushing move to hand. Can you see it?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.



Solution to last Saturday's competition: "I Qg8". The winners are: C.W. Stunt, Sherborne; M.J. Paul, Worcester Park; P.J. Dillon, Kingston Winslow.

WORD WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

NAPERY

- Jewelled casuistry
- Household linen
- Trickery, knavery

VIRGULE

- A loose woman
- A slash

Answers on page 13

HERALDIC PURPLE

- Leopard or waspion
- A surf-boarder
- Flavoured with pine resin

GALIMATIAS

- The crest of a helmet
- Gibberish
- Cold meats in aspic

Performance: A Doll's House

(today, BBC2, 9.25pm)
In his television debut, David Thacker, of the Young Vic, directs Ibsen's exhorting drama of a wife who resists the role of a meretricious and narrow-minded society foist on her. Juliet Stevenson plays Nora, and Trevor Eve her constricting husband.

Geraldine James, Patrick Malahide and David Calder provide back-up.

Funny Business

(Sunday, BBC2, 8.05pm)
Rowan Atkinson kicks off this six-part investigation into the art of comedy with a look at mime and visual humour. Buster Keaton.

TV PREVIEW

Jacques Tati and John Cleese are among those sporting themselves.

Catholicism and Sex

(Monday, Channel 4, 11pm)
In the first of a four-part series, Kate

Saunders, the columnist and author, and Peter Stanford, a former editor of the *Catholic Herald*, enquire into the nature of Catholic guilt and confusion about sexuality, both theory and practice. Tonight's programme focuses on the priesthood, celibacy and the church's teachings on sexual behaviour.

The Feast of Christmas

(Tuesday, Channel Four, 8.30pm)
The suitably round Paul Levy unravels the gastronomic traditions of Christmas with Frances Bissell, the *Times* cook, food writer Claudia Roden and chef Raymond Blanc.

N.L.

A head full of voices, songs of fear

The premise runs that no band can be truly great without an amazing vocalist. It's all very well having industrial-strength tunes (yawn) and the kind of rhythm that forces concrete blocks to shake their funky things (booooring) — if it ain't got steel lungs and a honey throat shoving it up the top 20, then the future of the band includes mini-cabbing and a great deal of part-time bar work.

The premise is proven by, among others, the impossibly great "Throwing Muses" — sweetly ticklish Kristin Hersh's band. Hersh's vocals are full-on: frightening; beautiful; her wis' end banshee wail is full of gun-smoke and robbed sleep.

"I was so scared of my voice," the diminutive Hersh says, curled up on a very uncomfortable wooden chair. "Even now, sometimes. But not as much as, uh, before."

"Before" is when all the unpleasant stuff happened. In places, Hersh's history is as bleak and black as her lyrics. Having been beset with roses and soaring superlatives for several frankly amazing albums — *House of Tomorrow*, *Fat Skier*, *Real Ramona* and *Red Heaven* are mentioned in particular, hoping that 'yall will wander on down to HMV and invest your cash wisely — Throwing Muses, along with The Pkides, were regularly hailed as Boston's greatest contribution to the world since *Cheers*.

Then, in 1991, Hersh peeled herself apart in a *Melody Maker* interview, and disclosed that she had been suffering from "bi-polarity" — voices in her head telling her what to do. Her "muses" — the entities that "gave" her her songs — were ripping her apart. "I was really embarrassed that I was crazy," she said. "I'd have seizures, knock teeth out, talk in these other voices..." She split in two — "Good Kristin" and "Bad Kristin"; mentally dividing herself up to protect the baby with which she was pregnant at the time. "My voice felt so big and dangerous," she says, "I was horrified to think that this voice was in there with the baby."

Hersh lost a custody battle, so baby Dylan now lives with her ex, and cannot be taken out of his home state. At the

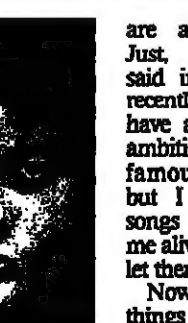


The Throwing Muses: "My voice felt so big and dangerous," says singer Kristin Hersh

Caitlin Moran on the 'muses' that once sent a brilliant singer crazy

same time she was fighting for her baby. Hersh split acrimoniously with her manager, and recorded her fifth LP — *Real Ramona*.

"Hook In Her Head" from *Real Ramona* gives vent on how she felt about her career at the time — "Rip it up, live it down/make it big, keep it clean/shake it up. Take it home/do it good/keep it up. Well honey it's a drag but if you don't, watch them go. I guess I'll have to unhook these hooks/This woman literally felt she had a hook in her head. I'm sooo, bone, tired." In muso-jargon, the hookline or hook is the part of the song that snags people's attention. This double-meaning, the weary fear in Hersh's voice, the terrifying tumble of guitars and thud-bang-doom drums



are all, very... Just, very. She said in interview recently: "I don't have any driving ambition to be famous myself; but I think the songs would eat me alive if I didn't let them go."

Now, though, things are better. Hersh has another baby, Ryder — "It sounds strange to say that, y'know, 'I've got another baby,' but it's like, I don't have empty arms any more. I've got something there." Ryder's father, Billy O'Connell, also manages the band, and is fiercely protective of his wife. And while Hersh still seems vaguely uncomfortable with whatever it is that gives her her songs, she feels that "all my catastrophes have been exorcised. I feel I have a very normal life now."

Throwing Muses albums are invariably filled with psychotic waltzes, hate, fear, grace, bewilderment, beauty... *Curse*, the Muses' live album out now on A&D, is no different. Hersh's voice travails through disgust, alternately growling and soaring on "Furious"; and shivers through "Pearl", a very scary song in a whole set of Scary Songs. It tiptoes along, just Hersh and a mute acoustic, before suddenly being pounced on and consumed utterly by a big, raw, brutal chorus.

GUILTY SECRETS: Graham Bell, Olympic skier

I watch *Gladiators* — and enjoy it. The series features a bunch of body-building guys and girls who compete with the public in various games, such as fighting each other with long, foam-tipped sticks. It's kid's stuff really, but I think it's great. The funniest thing is that the referee, John Anderson, is a highly respected figure in the athletics world: he coached Liz McColgan.



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